

Guerrillas attack Israeli allies

MARJAVOUN, Lebanon (R) — Guerrillas attacked Israel's militia allies with artillery fire, security sources said. The duels came a day after Arabs agreed to attend an 11th round of Middle East peace talks with Israel starting on Tuesday in Washington. The sources said guerrillas fired mortar bombs and anti-tank rockets at two hilltop posts of the on the edge of Israel's self-styled "security zone" in the south. No one was hurt. Israeli and SLA gunners retaliated by lobbing more than 20 artillery shells into hills on the Iqlim Al Toufah ridge where guerrillas are active. There was no report of casualties in the retaliatory fire. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attacks, the first since Thursday shelling. Hezbollah and other groups opposed to the Arab-Israeli talks harassed attacks on Israeli or SLA forces on Friday and Saturday, as Arab foreign ministers met in Beirut to plot strategy at the peace negotiations. The groups had vowed to continue firing Karyush rockets into Israel if civilians are hurt by Israeli fire in the south.

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Daoudieh resigns to contest elections

AMMAN (Petra) — The director of press and public relations at the Royal Court, Mohammad Daoudieh, Sunday tendered his resignation to His Majesty King Hussein in order to run for parliamentary elections in his home town of Tafileh. In his letter of resignation, Mr. Daoudieh expressed his gratitude for the "compassion and care" that His Majesty had shown him, and said his time at the Royal court was long enough to discover only some of many virtues that the King has. "It was a great honour to have worked for Your Majesty for 13 months... after which I now realise the secret of your people's love for you," Mr. Daoudieh wrote.

PLO and Israel on verge of historic deal

Both sides report accord on Gaza-Jericho with differing outlooks
Agreement is ready, but to be preceded by mutual recognition
Tunis crisis talks turned into lobby forum despite stiff opposition

Combined agency dispatches

Faisal Husseini, the overall team leader, would join them later. Israeli Minister also said the Jewish state was on the verge of the agreement with the PLO which could break a deadlock in peace talks and lead two of the Middle East's bitter foes to recognise each other.

Some Palestinian officials echoed the Israeli assessment but others said the PLO might pull out of the stalled talks unless Israel agreed to a troop withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin called a special cabinet meeting for Monday to vote on part of the agreement, which was reached after secret contacts between Israelis and PLO officials living outside the occupied territories.

Israeli Health Minister Haim Ramon said soldiers would be pulled out but added: "No Jewish settlement in the territories will be moved... Jews in the territories will be under Israeli rule."

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The reports brought immediate howls of protest from Israel's right wing and from the Islamic activists opposed to Mr. Arafat. Both raised the specter of violence.

The Israeli cabinet is expected to vote Monday night on allowing the Israeli team at the peace talks to go ahead with the plan. Mr. Peres is expected to fly to Washington this week to sign it.

Mr. Rabin might also seek a cabinet vote on whether to recognise the PLO since the autonomy agreement could not really proceed without them.

The change comes after months of quiet exploratory meetings between PLO and Israeli officials that culminated last week in the outline of an autonomy plan reached by Mr. Peres and Mahmoud Abbas, a senior PLO official, to a meeting in Washington.

One U.S. official speaking on condition of anonymity, seemed to share Mr. Rabin's scepticism.

"A casual observer would say, 'It looks like they're down to police security issues and financial issues,'" the official said. Referring to the procedural details of the Gaza-Jericho deal, "Mr. Kaddoumi said in Amman.

Mr. Rabin was circumspect in a Sunday newspaper interview:

"There was progress in the talks with the Palestinians. We'll see if what the Palestinians told in private discussions will be given expression on the negotiations in Washington."

One U.S. official speaking on condition of anonymity, seemed to share Mr. Rabin's scepticism.

"A casual observer would say, 'It looks like they're down to police security issues and financial issues,'" the official said. Referring to the procedural details of the Gaza-Jericho deal, "As you know, it's going to be a

lot more complicated when they get into the reality of it."

The mere fact that Mr. Peres made the journey to California just four days before negotiations were to resume is an encouraging sign, said Rob Satloff of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

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Jordan respects 'independent Palestinian will,' King to Arafat

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday received a telephone call from Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and discussed with him the latest developments in the peace process, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

The agency said that during the telephone conversation, the King assured Mr. Arafat of Jordan's support for the independent Palestinian will in making decisions.

The call came after Jordanian officials had expressed dissatisfaction with the Palestinians for the lack of consultation over the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) acceptance of the Gaza-Jericho option.

The Palestinian people are very distressed, and consider the option to mean sharing power with the Israeli occupation forces," he said.

Tayyib Khaled, a committee member and top official of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), the second most important component of the PLO after Mr. Arafat's Fatah, called the Gaza-Jericho option a "trick."

The agency said that during the telephone conversation, the King assured Mr. Arafat of Jordan's stand towards consultation with Jordan is, "we will continue to support them and consult with them," Dr. Abu Nowar said.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan said that Jordan had no accurate data on the Gaza and Jericho option and could not therefore comment on it.

"Jordan can comment or take stand on the option only when it is informed of all its details," Petra quoted Mr. Hassan as saying.

concerns about the Gaza-Jericho option so that we would not be surprised by any developments related to it." But no matter what the Palestinians' stand towards consultation with Jordan is, "we will continue to support them and consult with them," Dr. Abu Nowar said.

Mr. Abu Nowar said that Jordan had no accurate data on the Gaza and Jericho option and could not therefore comment on it.

"Jordan can comment or take stand on the option only when it is informed of all its details," Petra quoted Mr. Hassan as saying.

Hussein, were opposed to.

Mr. Khaled said endorsement of the option was "a dangerous gamble" and, in a reference to Mr. Arafat, said it was "a dream cherished by some who are totally unaware of the reality of Israeli-American intentions and plans."

(Continued on page 10)

King welcomes Sheik Zayed's call for healing Arab differences

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday welcomed a call by United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan to end inter-Arab differences and restore Arab solidarity on a new basis.

King Hussein, in comments carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that "such a responsible attitude was expected from Sheikh Zayed, one of the Arab leaders who have consistently exerted efforts towards Arab solidarity and unity."

The King was commenting on public remarks made by Sheikh Zayed, who was shown on Jordan Television, saying that the disarray in Arab ranks in the wake of the Gulf crisis was not acceptable.

Sheikh Zayed called for Arab unity and said that every Arab should support and help other Arabs.

"We are all in Arab League ... but every one of us operates on his own without (the approval) of his brethren and thus, is un-

members of the league.

In his comments carried by Petra, the King also referred to the issue of Jerusalem.

The Holy City "has always been our major preoccupation and it had been so with my father and grandfathers," he said. "Jerusalem is the first of the two kiblas ... and the land of Isra' wal Mir'aj [the nocturnal journey of the Prophet Mohammad]."

"We realise the dangers surrounding us and the attempts aimed at obliterating our Islamic and Arab identity," he said.

"This makes it incumbent upon us to shoulder responsibility towards Jerusalem in realisation of our Islamic faith and the principles of the Great Arab Revolt."

"It also embodies our national and humanitarian duty."

On Saturday, King Hussein instructed the government to allocate money to rebuild an ancient wood podium inside Jerusalem's Al Aqsa Mosque, set on fire in 1969.

Salaaddin's podium, built to the Syrian town of Aleppo, was reported to have the outright support of a majority of the 21

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Middle East News

Foreigners travel to east Turkey despite kidnaps

ISTANBUL (R) — Kidnapping of tourists by rebel Kurds in eastern Turkey have deterred most tour companies, but some adventurous travellers still put themselves in harm's way.

"We have had no tour groups this month," said an employee at the Big Urartu Hotel in the eastern city of Van. "We are empty right now, but we do get backpackers from time to time."

The separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) has seized 16 foreigners in the past two months and seven remain in its hands — two Swiss, two Italians, two Germans and a New Zealander.

The guerrillas want the governments concerned to negotiate directly for their released, but the Western countries, accepting Turkey's view of the PKK as a terrorist group, have refused.

Released hostages have told of long forced marches across mountainous terrain with ragged bands of young guerrillas who extorted food from impoverished Kurdish villagers on the way.

The brutal conflict with the PKK, which has cost more than 7,000 lives since 1984, is never mentioned in travel brochures.

The Turkish authorities are reluctant to advertise the risks in the east — in case they inadvertently dampen the lucrative mass tourist trade in Istanbul and sunnier western resorts.

Tourism Minister Abdul Kadir Ates said tour groups could still visit eastern Turkey safely if they gave advance notice to the local authorities who could then arrange security.

"But it is really difficult to tell this to the adventurers who prefer to go there on their own," he told Reuters.

Mr. Ates said 9,000 tourists had visited Van province this year — a tiny fraction of the total of seven million the government hopes will visit Turkey as a whole in 1992.

The region has plenty to lure tourists, especially those excited by wild scenery and historic monuments, as well as Biblical curiosities determined to find traces of Noah's Ark.

Even the experience of being kidnapped is not enough to put off some fundamentalists Christians who hunt. One of the Italians now held hostage, Angelo Pellegrini, has been abducted by the PKK before one of his many previous trips to the east.

"He never says anything to us," complained an Italian diplomat in Ankara. "He never con-

tacts the consulates in Istanbul or Izmir, but of course he is free to travel."

Travelling overland to the main attractions — the deserted Armenian city of Ani near Kars, Lake Van and the Nemrut Volcano, the colossal statues on Mount Nemrut, Mount Agri (Ararat), the Ishaq Pasha Palace or the rock city of Hasankeyf — requires driving on roads which may just be safe in daytime.

At night PKK guerrillas emerge to stop traffic at impromptu roadblocks and kidnap state-paid village guards or foreigners.

Most, if not all, the 16 foreign kidnap victims were abducted in this way. Apart from four Frenchmen seized from an organised tour bus in July, all were independent travellers.

The appetite for organised tours to the east has all but vanished for the moment. Huseyin Meyman of Tentour, a leading tour company, said demand dried up after the French kidnapping.

A more specialised company, Trek Travel, has stopped taking trekkers to mount Agri and has even stopped taking groups to the Kackar mountains north of the PKK's normal area of activity.

Nevertheless, At Tours, which caters mainly for Americans, was sending a group of 14 to the east on Sunday and was planning 10 more trips in the next two months, operator Husnu Mirza said.

Most Western governments strongly advise their nationals to stay away from eastern and southeastern Turkey.

"Do not go there unless on essential business," the British Foreign Office warned last week.

As for the rest of Turkey, it said: "We do not advise against travel to these areas," but noted PKK threats to attack tourist targets in western Turkey, where several bombings have taken place in the last three months.

In London, Mustafa Turkmen, director of the Turkish tourist board for Britain and Ireland, said that despite such warnings, the number of British tourists visiting Turkey in the first eight months of the year was 37 per cent up on 1992.

"Bookings are exceptionally good this year with half a million people travelling to Turkey," said a spokesperson at travel agent Thomas Cook. "It's been very popular with the British because of low holiday brochure prices."



Supporters of fugitive Somali warlord Mohammed Farah Aideed stage an anti-U.S. protest in Mogadishu (AFP photo)

Somalis stage anti-U.S. protest

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — Some 1,000 supporters of Somalia's main warlord Mohammed Farah Aideed demonstrated here Sunday against the U.S. Army presence among U.N. peacekeeping forces.

The protesters gathered at the October 21 Stadium here armed with stones and chanted "Yankes go home, long live Aideed."

Gunfire was heard near the stadium. But it was not immediately clear who was shooting. A spokesman for the U.N. Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) said U.N. forces were not involved.

"We will cut the 400 American soldiers piece by piece like beef," said Abdulla Hassan, one of the demonstrators.

He was referring to 400 elite U.S. Ranger who arrived here last week amid reports that their mission was to capture the fugitive General Aideed, wanted by the United Nations for allegedly ordering bloody attacks on the peacekeepers.

In another development, the deputy commander of the Indian brigade in the 29-nation U.N. force, Colonel Dinesh Merchant, said his country's contingent will soon be the largest.

India has agreed to send some 4,900 troops to Somalia to reinforce the 24,500-strong force.

The United States has some 4,200 soldiers here.

An advance party of 200 Indian soldiers arrived in Mogadishu on Saturday to set up logistics before the coming of the remaining troops.

The next group of the mainly infantry men will arrive Sept. 14 and the entire force is expected in Mogadishu before Sept. 25. Col. Merchant said.

Col. Merchant told journalists here that the brigade was selected from those soldiers who had served "continuously well" in the army.

He described them as "battle hardened," many of them having fought against the Tamil Tigers when India sent in troops to Sri Lanka in a peacekeeping attempt five years ago.

Most of the Indian soldiers will be deployed in the western town of Belet Huen where part of their brief will be to provide security to German troops doing rehabilitation work there.

Germany's post-war constitution allows German soldiers to use arms only in self-defence.

UNOSOM II Saturday opened Mogadishu airport after closing it to civilian flights for a week citing security reasons, a U.N. military spokesman said.

UNOSOM closed the airport to all civilian and commercial planes on Aug. 21 saying it was assessing information that gunmen loyal to Gen. Aideed possessed anti-aircraft weapons and were ready to use them against U.N. planes.

But U.N. deputy military spokesman Captain Tim McDavit said after a week's assessment, UNOSOM could not confirm that the militiamen had such weapons.

However, a potential threat to aircraft still exists," Capt. McDavit said.

Meanwhile, the Somali National Alliance (SNA) led by Gen. Aideed in a statement here appealed for a "third party" to help mediate between it and UNOSOM.

The SNA said the mediator could be "eminent persons, organisations, governments or group of governments."

"It is impossible to conduct dialogue with UNOSOM II while the U.S. and UNOSOM II are jointly engaged in an increasing build-up and offensive against us day after day," the statement said.

The movement said the United Nations and the United States had prepared a "special commando force to launch a genocidal attack on the Somalia population.

Lawyer claims new evidence against Demjanjuk

TEL AVIV (AP) — A lawyer said Sunday he has obtained new evidence placing retired Ohio auto worker John Demjanjuk in Nazi death and concentration camps.

Attorney Shafit Shilansky said he hoped the material would persuade Israel's attorney general, Yosef Harish, to reverse his position and recommend that Mr. Demjanjuk be tried on new Nazi war crime charges.

Mr. Shilansky told the Associated Press he was given new documents and information about witnesses who allegedly place Mr. Demjanjuk as a Nazi guard in the death camp of Sobibor and another location, but refused to elaborate.

Mr. Shilansky said he would meet with Mr. Harish by Monday to present the documents.

In Cleveland, Mr. Demjanjuk's son-in-law, Ed Nishnic, was sceptical and "very unimpressed" with the claim.

These alleged Nazi hunters and lawyers have been for the last two weeks claiming to have new evidence and so far, every piece of their new evidence has fallen apart when faced with any sort of telephone interview.

Mr. Harish recommended earlier this month against a new trial, saying it could raise the danger of double jeopardy. He had not argued that a new trial was not in the public interest because there was no guarantee of conviction.

Israel's supreme court last month overturned Mr. Demjanjuk's 1988 conviction and death sentence as "Ivan the terrible," a guard at the Nazi camp of Treblinka.

The court found there was convincing evidence that Mr. Demjanjuk, 73, belonged to a Nazi guard unit and that he was in the Sobibor camp and several concentration camps.

The judges recommended against a new trial, saying too much time had already lapsed in legal proceedings against Mr. Demjanjuk.

But appeals by holocaust survivors, Nazi hunters and various Jewish groups held up Mr. Demjanjuk's scheduled Aug. 1 deportation at the last minute.

A different supreme court panel rejected their request for a new trial on the Sobibor charges, but the supreme court president gave the petitioners until Thursday to make a final plea for a new Mr. Demjanjuk trial.

Last week, Mr. Shilansky and his law partner said a Sobibor survivor had been located who remembered seeing Mr. Demjanjuk at the camp. But Nazi hunters who questioned the woman, Esther Raab, 71, later said they did not believe her testimony would stand up in court.

None of the Sobibor survivors represented by Mr. Shilansky remember Mr. Demjanjuk at the camp. There are several documents that purportedly link Mr. Demjanjuk to Sobibor and other camps. One is an SS identity card in Demjanjuk's name issued at the Trawniki training camp for Nazi guards. It says Mr. Demjanjuk was dispatched to Sobibor in March 1943.

Mr. Demjanjuk has maintained his innocence, saying he spent most of World War II in German camps after being captured as a Soviet soldier in May 1942.

Since his acquittal, Mr. Demjanjuk has been held in protective custody in his isolation cell at Ayalon prison in central Israel.

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 1992

NEWS IN BRIEF

King Hassan II to inaugurate most modern mosque

CASABLANCA (AFP) — King Hassan II is to inaugurate the world's second largest but most modern mosque Monday, seven years after construction began. Michel Pinseau, the mosque's French architect, told journalists that "following the king's instructions we built a mosque which uses all modern techniques." Built largely on land reclaimed from the sea and designed to withstand the most severe earthquakes, the five billion dirham (\$527 million) mosque with its huge mobile roof, "is bigger than all known cathedrals, including St. Peter's in Rome," Mr. Pinseau said. The Hassan II Mosque, which has a 200-metre high minaret with a 35-kilometre long lazer beam aimed at Mecca, will be able to contain 20,000 faithful, including 6,500 women on two mezzanines, while a further 80,000 could pray on the esplanade outside. The central part of the prayer hall can be transformed in five minutes into an open-air patio when the 3,700 square metres of roof slide away. When the area is closed, the hall is softly lit by 58 crystal chandeliers each weighing 2,600 kilograms. Mr. Pinseau said one of the main technical difficulties in building the mosque was to raise the minaret by 25 metres at the king's request.

Egyptian killed in Kuwait mineclearing

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — An Egyptian mineclearer was killed and two others injured in a blast in northern Kuwait near the Iraqi border. Al Anbaa newspaper said Sunday. Major Osama Higab, 50, died in the explosion Saturday that injured two other soldiers from an Egyptian contingent clearing mines in Kuwait, it said. Two Bangladeshi mineclearers were killed and 10 injured in a similar blast on Aug. 24 in northwest Kuwait. They were among 1,500 Bangladeshi clearing mines left over from the August 1990-February 1991 Iraqi occupation. At least 53 explosives experts from around the world have died while clearing mines in the emirate.

S. Arabia gave \$50m to PLO since 1990

RIYADH (AP) — Donations totalling some \$50 million have been transferred from Saudi Arabia to the Palestine Liberation Organisation since the Gulf crisis, the official Saudi Press Agency said Saturday.

The agency said the figure was disclosed by Abdil Rahim Gammoud, a PLO member who heads the Popular committee which collects private donations to the PLO made mainly by Palestinians working in the kingdom. The PLO has been ostracised by the Saudi-led group of Gulf Arab countries since its leadership sided with Iraq following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf states had been the PLO's main bankrollers. The suspension of the cash flow from these governments has forcing PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat to slash the PLO's annual budget of \$300 million by 70 per cent. Private donations and a PLO-decreed five per cent tax on salaries of Palestinians working in Gulf countries have continued. Also, Riyadh has continued to pay \$6 million monthly to Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Peres under fire for breaking Sabbath

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The ultra-orthodox Shas Party, a member of Israel's government coalition, slammed Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on Sunday for rushing off for peace talks in the United States during the Sabbath. "It's scandalous for a minister to travel on the Sabbath," said Yosef Azran, who threatened to file a no-confidence motion against the government in parliament. Mr. Peres returned Sunday to the fire and brimstone broadside from Orthodox Jews after meeting U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in California over moves to grant the Palestinians autonomy in Gaza and Jericho. Jewish religious law bans any work on the holy day from Friday evening to Saturday evening and is strictly observed by the orthodox.

Egypt to tighten clampdown on militants

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Egyptian Interior Minister Hassan Al Alfai has vowed to intensify his campaign against radicals despite an assassination attempt on him Aug. 18. General Alfi told London-based Middle East Broadcasting Corporation television, monitored here, that he felt better after successful surgery on his injured arm in Switzerland and was planning to return to Cairo in the next few days. "I have not and will never regret being an interior minister," said the former governor of the southern province of Asyut, the hotbed of radicals seeking to overthrow the regime and set up an Islamic state. "The incident has not affected me. On the contrary, I will continue my work and will even intensify it," he said. Five people were killed and 13 injured in the suicide attack on Gen. Alfi in central Cairo, claimed by Muslim fundamentalists from the Vanguard of the Conquest organisation. "To those who tried to kill me, I say God will take revenge against you. But I ask you to return to your religion...because what is happening has nothing to do with religion, patriotism and conscience," Gen. Alfi said. "To the policemen, I say carry on and do not be frightened. To the Egyptian people I say remain vigilant against those who violate security."

Newspaper director, editor to stand trial

TEHRAN (AFP) — The managing director of Salam newspaper is to stand trial before a religious court in Iran following complaints from several high-ranking officials, the daily reported Sunday. Mohammad Mussavi Khoiha, a former revolutionary prosecutor, will appear in court next Saturday, it said, without giving details of the charges. The report came one day after the radical newspaper said its editor-in-chief, Ahlai Abdi, was arrested Thursday on orders from the Islamic revolutionary courts. In Sunday's edition of Salam, Mr. Mussavi called Mr. Abdi's arrest "illegal" because the revolutionary courts had "no mandate to review cases relating to press violations." Salam has stepped up its criticism of the government in recent months and pressed for media freedom. A weekly said meanwhile that the chief editor of Iran's leading newspaper, Kayhan, would also have to stand trial following a civil suit filed by Chief Justice Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi. Mehdi Nassiri, who wrote two commentaries criticising Mr. Yazdi last month, was summoned to the prosecutor's office on Saturday and released on bail, Kayhan Havaie said.

MARKET PRICES

	Upper/lower price in fils per kg.
Apple	650/550
Apricots	440/360
Banana	680/620
Cabbage	180/160
Carrot	360/320
Cauliflower	330/220
Cucumbers (large)	200/180
Cucumbers (small)	360/310
Eggplant	160/140
Fig	350/320
Garlic	750/720
Grapes	200/180
Onion	400/320
Pear	600/500
Pepper (hot)	220/180
Potato	340/300
Tomato	340/300
Swede	240/200
Watermelon	150/130

JORDAN TELEVISION

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PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Doc. "Le Louvre du Dimon à la Pyramide" News in French
19:15 Sport Magazine
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 The Golden Girls
21:18 Thirty Something
22:00 News in English
22:20 Sherlock Holmes

PRAYER TIMES

Fajr 04:04 (Sunrise) Duha 12:37 Dhuhr 16:13 'Asr 19:09 Maghrib 22:20 Isha 22:20

Home News

Queen to chair meeting on improving status of rural women

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday will chair a meeting with several professionals and specialists in the field of women and rural development at Al Ma'wa Palace.

This meeting constitutes a brain storming session to discuss the implementation in Jordan of the Geneva Declaration for Rural Women.

The declaration was adopted at the summit on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women held by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in February 1992.

The meeting is intended to review how involved institutions in Jordan can best serve to improve the status of rural women, establish networks between and among rural women and organisations, and strengthen rural women's capacity and access to services.

Interior Ministry to accept voter list contests

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Interior Sunday announced that objections to voter registration lists will be accepted today (Monday) until Sept. 5. The display of these lists, lists of registered voters in different districts in the country, for the next parliamentary elections ended Sunday.

The ministry also set the period from Sept. 6 until Sept. 12 for the committee in charge to look into the objections raised by citizens; the period from Sept. 16 until 18 is limited to contesting decisions in court.

The First Court of Instance will rule on the contestations between the Sept. 25 and 27.

Final voter registration lists will be displayed following the court's ruling.

Ministry, RSS agree to control air pollution

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Health and the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) Sunday signed an agreement to control air pollution in Hashemite areas in Zarqa Governorate.

Under the agreement, the ministry will provide all facilities needed to implement provisions of the agreement, including the monitoring of sites, where surveillance equipment will be installed.

The RSS will also prepare a quarterly report on each site monitored and submit it to the ministry.

The agreement will be implemented over a period of 16 months.

It was signed by Abdul Rahim Maltas, the Minister of Health, and RSS President Hani Mulihi.

Education minister reviews new policy in Mafraq

MAFRAC (Petra) — Minister of Education and Higher Education Khalid Al Omari Sunday said the school is the basic educational unit from which the educational development process should start.

During a meeting with education officials and teachers in Mafraq Governorate, Dr. Omari reviewed the new educational policy, saying that the school will be the focus of development, according to the new plan.

The minister said a school-based development committee will be formed to supplement the Educational Development Council which will be formed at education departments.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Princess Basma donates 800 school uniforms

IRBID (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma has contributed 800 school uniforms to needy girls attending Irbid governorate schools as part of the charity campaign of 1993, according to Nabil Al Rousan, director of the Princess Basma Social Services Centre.

Labour minister returns from Indonesia

AMMAN (Petra) — Labour Minister Khalid Al Ghzawi Sunday returned to Jordan after a six-day visit to Indonesia, during which he held talks with his Indonesian counterpart and senior Indonesian officials on scopes of bilateral cooperation. In an arrival statement, Mr. Ghzawi said Jordan and Indonesia agreed to form a ministerial team to assess bilateral cooperation over a six-month period in a serious attempt to forge closer cooperation. The minister said that both sides reached an agreement whereby instructors from the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) will be sent for training in Indonesian industrial institutions. He described his talks with his Indonesian counterpart as positive and successful.

JD 96,420 approved to implement municipal projects

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Mohammad Mahdi Al Farhan approved the offering of JD 96,420 worth of tenders to implement projects in four local councils. The projects include the construction of four commercial stores in Qasr town in Karak, asphalt roads in Qatraneh, constructing a building for Muqarib Village Council in Karak governorate and buying insecticides for Zarqa municipality.

JTV to start traffic awareness series

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Television (JTV) Wednesday Sept. 1 will air the first episode of a traffic awareness series targeted at children and students. The programme was prepared by the Public Security Department (PSD) in cooperation with the Ministry of Education. The series is designed to promote awareness of traffic regulations and rules and will teach children how to avoid accidents.

Kingdom celebrates Prophet Mohammad's birth anniversary

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Kingdom joins the Islamic World today in celebrating the anniversary of Prophet Mohammad's Birthday.

Prophet Mohammad was born in Mecca in the year 570 to the influential and prestigious tribe of Bani Hashem.

His grandfather had been the head of the tribe and prominent in Mecca politics.

In 599, while on a study journey with his uncle and guardian, Abu Taleb, the Prophet met his first wife Khadijah.

In 610, the Holy Koran was revealed to Prophet Mohammad through the Angel Gabriel.

Islam became the third monotheistic religion and is currently followed by millions of people worldwide.

From that time, at frequent intervals until his death, the Prophet received more revelations, which were collected and inscribed in 650.

The Koran endures today as the divine revelation written in the very words of God himself.

Prophet Mohammad was admired for his courage, resoluteness, and impartiality, and for a firmness that was tempered by generosity.

He won men's hearts by his personal charm. He was gentle,

especially with children.

Though he was sometimes silent in thought for the most part he was engaged in purposeful activity.

He walked vigorously and spoke rapidly. He became an exemplar of virtuous character, and stories presented him as realising the Islamic ideal of human life.

Mohammad's chief significance is as founder of a state and of a religion.

In his lifetime he created a federation of Arab tribes which, in less than 20 years after his death, defeated the Byzantine and Persian empires, occupied a vast territory from Libya to Persia, and then developed into the Arab or Islamic Empire.

He made the religion of Islam the basis of Arab unity.

Islamic doctrine maintains that God is the founder of the religion, not Mohammad, but he played an obviously important part in fostering the nascent religion.

His concern with ultimate questions, his mystical outlook, and his moral seriousness were important adjuncts to the preaching of the Koranic message.

Addressing a celebration Sunday on behalf of His Majesty

King Hussein, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Al Abbadi said the Prophet spent the major part of his time praying and reading the Koran and left to the Islamic world a huge wealth of knowledge and sciences.

The second speaker at the celebration was Minister of Social Development Mohammad Al Sqour who said the Prophet had directed special attention to social welfare. He noted that the second Muslim Caliph, Omar Ibn Al Khattab, had enacted the first social code in the world to protect the vulnerable, the result of which was the establishment of a bureau for children.

Chief Islamic Justice Sheikh Noor Salman also addressed the celebration, saying that Prophet Mohammad had set an example for the Muslim World.

He referred to the many crisis which the Prophet had experienced and his suffering while spreading the message of Islam, noting that in the end of the Prophet won over his enemies.

Sheikh Salman praised King Hussein's initiative to maintain and restore the Islamic Holy Shrines, such as the Dome of the Rock, the tomb of the companions of Prophet Mohammad, and most recently his directives to reconstruct the Saladdin minbar



Cabinet members, senior ministry officials, diplomats and citizens Sunday attend a celebration of the anniversary of Prophet Mohammad's birthday (Petra photo)

patronage of Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Lt. General Abdul Hafez Mirai Al Kazabneh.

The celebration was attended by several Cabinet ministers, di-

Majali stresses citizens' role in decision-making process

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Sunday stressed the importance of citizens' participation in the decision-making process, saying that the government and the public are partners in shouldering the burden and responsibility.

During a meeting at the Youth Ministry, Dr. Majali said the government can not do everything for citizens, and people themselves have to play their role.

He said the government will arrange for the election of governors councils that will draw plans and play a supervisory role, including control and monitoring. He explained that the role of a governor will be akin to that of the prime minister, assisted by department heads, similarly to ministers.

Dr. Majali said the budget law,

for the first time ever, will provide each governorate with its own budget, and the ministry role will be limited to monitoring the aspect of the budget that concerns a particular ministry.

Dr. Majali called for directing special attention to women, saying that women make up half the society. If this half is absent, he said, then half of the society is denied participation in the production process.

Dr. Majali supported a proposal for setting up a fund to support the sports and youth movement and promised to seriously discuss this proposal.

At the meeting, Youth Minister Abdullah Oweida reviewed the ministry's achievements and stressed the need for setting up a special fund to support sports and youth activities.



British firm chosen to evaluate RJ assets, financial status

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A British management consulting firm has been selected to conduct an evaluation of the assets and financial status of the national carrier, Royal Jordanian (RJ), and recommend the most feasible mechanism to privatise the airline, informed sources said Sunday.

According to the sources, the London-based KPMG Management Consultants was chosen from among eight international firms which submitted offers to conduct the study after negotiations on the final value of the contract.

The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the study will focus on the actual value of RJ based on its assets and capital.

The airline has assets with a book value of about \$450 million, and its capital is JD 22 million (\$33 million), a ratio described as ridiculous by industry experts.

An earlier study, on the overall performance of the airline, conducted by international consultants Arthur Andersen, recommended that the capital of the company be raised to at least \$100 million and that privatisation was the best means to address the massive debt problem of the airline.

The Arthur Andersen study found that the airline was a profitable organisation in terms of operational and administrative aspects, but RJ off-

"But in this era of moving towards free-market economy and in view of the preoccupation of the government with other pressing economic problems, it is unfair to expect the government to pour in tens of millions of dollars into an airline when privatisation could solve the problem."

The airline's 5,000-plus employees also fear that there could be massive layoffs if the company was to be privatised and changed bands.

But officials say that any privatisation process would definitely include a provision to avert such massive layoffs at least for the first few years of operation as a private entity.

The "precise cost of the KPMG study contract was not immediately available; the sources would only say that it "could be between \$200,000 and \$250,000." The study is expected to be completed in three to four months.

According to the sources, a government-appointed committee is now looking for financing for the study, and it appeared that this aspect of the deal is most sensitive in official circles since no one was willing to comment how and where the financing was being sought.

But some officials say that in view of the pledge Dr. Majali made last week, the government would finance the study on its own. "Or they will come up with some mechanism to address this problem," said an official. "The study will not be stopped because of lack of funds."

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Shaker Al Shadi at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by 25 Jordanian artists at the Housing Bank Complex exhibition hall.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Bishara Najjar at Estheba Art Gallery, Amra Shopping Centre. The paintings depict Jordanian-Palestinian heritage, Jordanian antiquities, Arab Jerusalem, rural life and natural scenery.
- ★ New art gallery, "Darat Al Funan," of the Abd Al Majed Shoman Foundation. Program includes the permanent exhibition and the "Chair" exhibition in Jabal Luweibeh.

SHOWS

- ★ "The Eternal Torch," a variety of Circassian dances performances by Al-Jzel Al-Jadeed Club at the club's premises in the Seventh Circle.
- ★ Lecture entitled "The Cairns and Tombs of Harr" by William Lancaster at the Friends of Archaeology Centre at 7:00 p.m.

LECTURES

- ★ Lecture entitled "The Cairns and Tombs of Harr" by William Lancaster at the Friends of Archaeology Centre at 7:00 p.m.



Wadi Rum's majestic beauty holds many a tourist in breath-taking awe of nature's wonders (File photo)

and cables.

Mr. Atallah then toured Petra

and reviewed with tourism officials there means of preserving

the touristic environment of Petra encouraging internal tourism, in addition to developing traditional industries.

Jordan Times

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What, who comes first?

IT IS no secret that, from the very onset of the Arab-Israeli peace process, Palestinians had harboured fears, mainly due to the complexity of their problem, about being left out in the cold as other Arab parties made progress on the other tracks. It was also clear from the beginning that the exclusion of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) posed a serious and complex obstacle to achieving Palestinian nation's rights through the negotiations.

Thus, for the last ten rounds, the PLO leadership has been combining tactics to assert its role, and has been accepting, even putting forward, compromise formulae that would allow for continued Palestinian participation in the peace talks.

It is rather ironic therefore that it is the Palestinians, or more accurately the PLO, which is now making the first public claim, among the Arabs, of approaching a possible breakthrough through back-door negotiations with Israel.

There is no doubt that by opening negotiations with the PLO, even in secret, the Israeli government has finally come to terms with the fact that the organisation is the body that has the final say on the future of the Palestinians. But what could, under different circumstances, be an achievement for the Palestinian people is now raising alarming questions and concerns not only about Palestinian national unity — and Arab solidarity — but also about the whole future of the Palestinian cause and Arab national interests.

To start with, the failure of the PLO leadership, or those involved in the negotiations, to coordinate with the other Arab parties on such a crucial issue as accepting some sort of an early interim arrangement to be applied to Gaza and Jericho first, could serve to implement a long standing Israeli goal of cancelling any linkage between the various tracks.

Furthermore, for any Arab party to take any drastic step, without coordination, in such a sensitive and a crucial process there is always a real danger of undermining the Arab negotiating position including its very own.

There is nobody that does not hope for real progress towards solving the Palestinian problem, which remains the core of the Israeli-Arab conflict. But the ambiguity surrounding the Gaza-Jericho option, along with the conflicting Israeli and Palestinian interpretations of the deal, is a source of serious alarm.

After all, the Palestinians in particular, and all the Arab parties in general, have every interest in preventing any Israeli attempt to fragment the Palestinian cause and the whole peace process. What has transpired from the reported secret agreement so far does not quell such fears in the light of repeated Israeli statements that the arrangements will be confined to establishing autonomy in Jericho and Gaza while there is no talk about complete Israeli withdrawal or acceptance of Palestinian sovereignty.

The optimistic statements, made by some Palestinian officials who have been promoting the option in defiance of mounting Palestinian opposition, suggest that the PLO is hoping to establish a foothold in Jericho and the Gaza Strip to enable to lay the nucleus for a future Palestinian state.

All Israeli statements, however, indicate that even if the PLO leadership was indeed allowed to set up such an authority, its responsibilities could be reduced to paying the cost of continuing Israel control — Israel will remain control of security — and repress Palestinian opposition after the dismal failure by Israel to stop Palestinian attacks against Israeli targets.

Nobody can underestimate or dismiss the significance of an Israeli willingness to make territorial compromise or to recognise the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. But the recent developments, judging by Palestinian and Israeli accounts, raise serious concern that Israel is only trying to use the PLO to authorise the delegation to make concessions and to create a transitional stage during which Palestinian resistance is quelled by Palestinian authority.

The question that imposes itself here is of what use the PLO would be to the Palestinian struggle if it is stripped from its main historical role as the embodiment of the Palestinian national aspirations — and this a real threat that Palestinians and Jordanians alike should be aware of.

It is equally painful that our brothers in the Palestinian leadership, who do not seem to take the threat to the very existence of the Palestinian movement and the cause seriously, are also not taking into consideration the potential grave implications on Jordan of the Gaza-Jericho option.

The threat of Israel using Jericho as a conduit for emptying the land of its Palestinian inhabitants during the interim period is real, considering the current regional balance of power.

His Majesty King Hussein made it clear to the PLO chairman yesterday that Jordan would continue to support and respect the independence of the Palestinian decision, a principle that the PLO itself has always struggled to maintain. But taking into consideration the pressures that have been exerted on the PLO leadership, through political isolation and withdrawal of financial aid, we think we have the right to ask: How can the PLO maintain its national decision if it loses Palestinian support? They have to come if the people are to support the

Weekly Political Pulse

By Waleed Sadi

Self-perceived fear of Islam could act against Western interests

FEW MONTHS ago I attended an international meeting in Germany where representatives of NATO were also present. The major theme of deliberations was the new Islamic tide across the Arab and Islamic World and means to cope with or contain it. It became clear at the outset that NATO is searching for a "new enemy" to target after the collapse of the communist order in Moscow and elsewhere in Eastern Europe. The western defence alliance appears to be seeking a new *rason d'être* and is constantly searching for a fresh justification for its continued existence as a collective deterrence.

It was also made clear that Russia is far from being crossed out as a potential strategic foe in spite of the end of communism there. Moscow is almost a traditional enemy in view of its size and potential strength. There is bound to be a conflict of interest between major states because of economic if not political reasons. Besides, there is no sure way to tell whether Russians will revert to a totalitarian form of government as its history is replete with such cases.

Peking is fast developing into a superpower in its own right and there is no telling when China could replace the former Soviet Union as, at least, a second rate superpower worthy of reckoning with internationally.

Meanwhile, NATO must maintain its readiness to deal with all eventualities and the Islamic wave appears to offer some immediate threat that calls for combat readiness. Against this backdrop, one begins to understand the western reluctance to help out the defeated Muslims in Bosnia, in spite of the size and dimension of the atrocities that were committed against them. Europe is simply horrified by the thought of seeing an Islamic base constructed in their immediate backyard and no matter how horrific the crimes perpetrated against the Bosnian Muslims are, the old continent was not prepared to move militarily to stop the decimation of a fledgling Islamic state in Europe.

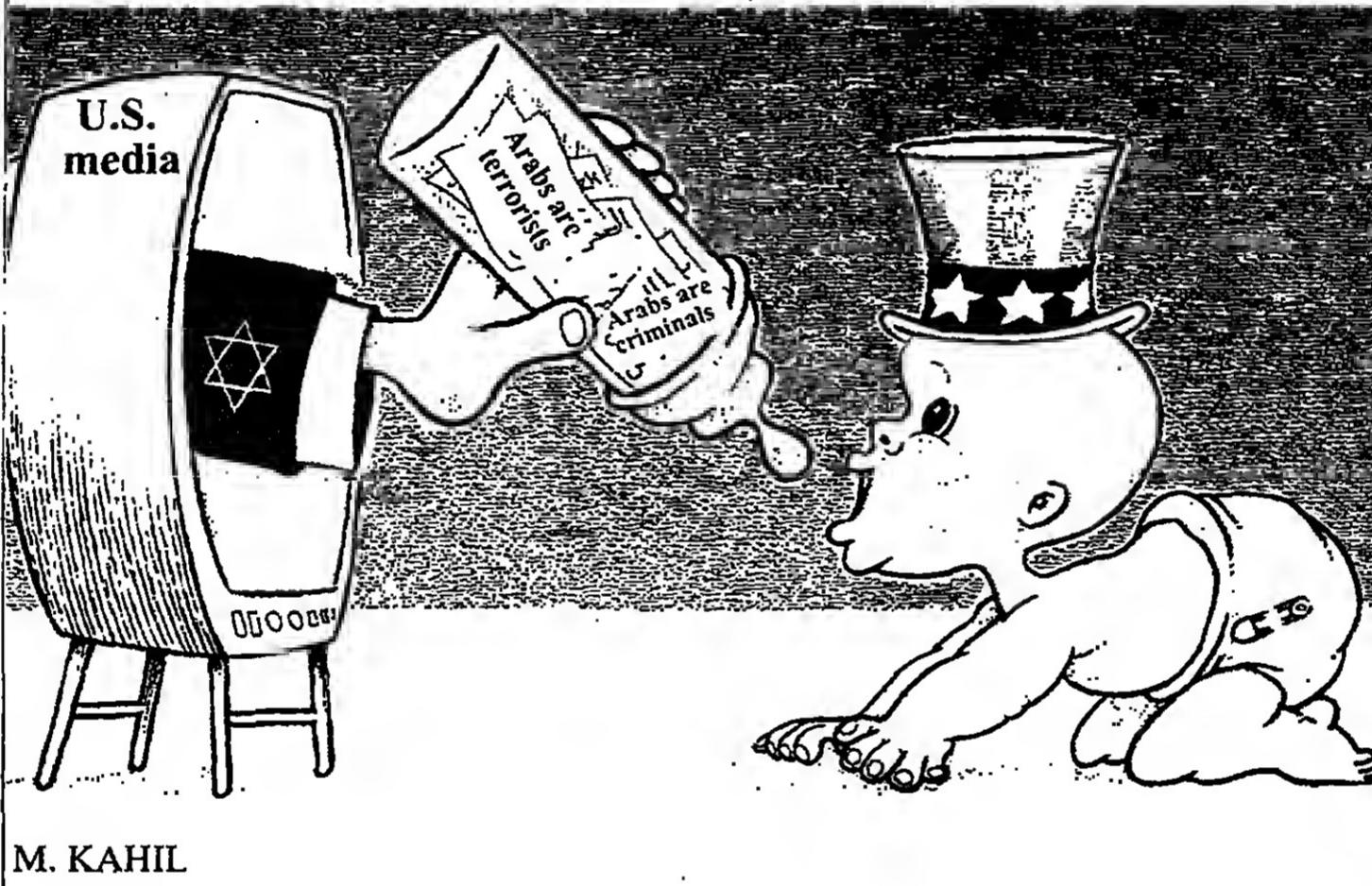
What made things more difficult for the Bosnian government, and may have turned the tide against it even within the Clinton administration, were the reports that Iran was seeking a base for itself within the Bosnian government. Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic may have committed the mother of all sins from the western point of view when unconfirmed reports suggested that he had signaled to the Iranian regime his willingness to play ball

with it or even strike a strategic alliance with it in order to receive urgently needed material help. The fact that the Bosnian government was pushed into Tehran's embrace by Serbia's aggression did not seem to matter very much since, from Europe's perspective, the Iranian regime is the source of Islamic tide across the world and it must not be allowed a presence in Europe, whatever the cost.

By making "Islam" the new challenge for the West, however, the western defence alliance is risking increasing the fortunes of the Islamic movement instead of clipping its wings. Unlike the communist ideology, Islam has stronger and deeper grassroots support in the Islamic and Arab World. The fervour for religion may have been idle for some decades, even centuries, but any attempt to make an enemy out of it is bound to have the counter effect that no amount of military or security-oriented anecdotes can be expected to stop.

Moderate Islamists sitting on the fringe of the conflict with Muslim extremists can be expected to join the fray on the side of Islam if the world is not careful in addressing the new challenges or dangers poised by the so-called new Islamic wave. In this vein, neither Algeria nor Egypt can be expected to succeed in dealing a death blow to Muslim extremists even by the style of combat chosen by these states for this purpose. Other Arab and Islamic countries can also be expected to face similar experiences if they do not opt for a more enlightened approach to the new phenomenon. The nature of Islam is such that a strictly military or security oriented approach against it would only add to its strength and acceptance on a wider scale.

Historically speaking, Islam became stronger when it was treated as an archenemy by the existing international order. Islam built its own empire and attained the status of a superpower as a direct consequence of the challenges and dangers put at its door steps. If it turned out to be true that NATO views Islam as a real threat, then it may be unsuspectingly lending an indirect support to its gaining new power. The hundreds of millions of silent moderate Muslims may be drawn into the battlefield against their will if their religion is made the target of the new international order. World leaders are invited to accord the recent Islamisation process a deeper thought.



Thais still seek culprits behind southern violence

By Sonya Hepinstall
Reuters

BANGKOK — Nearly one

month after an arson attack on 34 schools set off a chain of violence in Thailand's southern Muslim-dominated provinces, Thais are still at odds over who is to blame.

The violence has so far claimed six lives and wounded dozens in Pattani, Satun, Yala and Narathiwat provinces. It included the ambush of an army engineering unit and an attack on a train in which a girl was killed.

From the very beginning the army blamed the July 31 arson attack and each subsequent incident on splinter Muslim groups trying to breathe life into a waning separatist movement.

But many in the government and local people in the provinces deny that religious fervour is the motivation. They suggest that disgruntled former leaders might be involved in an attempt to destabilise the coalition government of Chuan Leekpai.

Political analysts said Mr. Chuan would have to resolve the problem fast or risk permanent political damage. He will cut short a visit to China this weekend, apparently to deal with the issue.

"The government might have managed to muddle through a long list of other problems during its nearly one year in office," said Bangkok Post in an editorial on Sunday.

"But it can ill afford to try muddling through the formidable security challenge in the deep south because its own stability as much as its credibility in the eyes of the public is further eroded by

every new terrorist attack."

Although the government has yet to declare a state of emergency or impose a curfew in the south, primary schools in Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat will close for nearly three weeks while the investigation continues.

The first issue is the identity of the attackers.

The military says a faction of younger members of an old guerrilla group, the Pattani United Liberation Organisation (PULO), may be attempting to stoke up separatist sentiments. They say PULO may be unhappy that resistance seems to be waning due to the Chuan government's commitment to improving Muslims' religious freedoms in this mainly Buddhist country.

In the 1970s and '80s PULO sabotaged government offices, railways and railway stations to back demands for autonomy for southern Thai provinces bordering Muslim Malaysia.

The fourth army region (in the south) has been engaging in a discussion with a part of that leadership, a moderate one, an ageing one," Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Pitsuwan said recently, explaining the army's rationale.

"There are some elements in that movement who might not be too enthusiastic about entering into discussion, negotiation, a compromise. They just want to create an issue, to show a flag, 'we're still here,'" said Mr. Surin, himself a Muslim from the south who was educated in the United

States.

Sunday newspapers said Interior Minister Chavalit Yongchaiyudh was planning to visit Kuala Lumpur soon to ask for Malaysia's help with the problem. They said he might seek its cooperation for attacks on suspected rebel bases in the Malaysian side of the border.

But local people, as well as

government officials at all levels, Muslim leaders and academics, believe the separatist story is not true.

"I don't believe the separatists

would have the capacity to do a

job like that," said Hama

Tohnung, a member of the Pattani provincial Islamic committee.

"Why would members of the movement trying to win over the hearts and minds of the local Muslim population burn down schools indiscriminately, including learning places for young Muslims?" he said.

Some say former members of

government, possibly including

generals who staged a coup in 1991 but were ousted a year later, played a role in the incidents.

Others believe the truth may

lie somewhere in between.

"The way in which the event was orchestrated, carried out..."

Arafat sparks economic boom in sleepy W. Bank oasis

By Barry Parker
Agence France Presse

JERICHO, Occupied West Bank — PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's bid to turn this sleepy oasis, which claims to be the oldest town in the world, into the precursor of a Palestinian state has ignited an economic boom.

The price of land has doubled in the last month following Mr. Arafat's call for Israel to withdraw first from this West Bank site and turn it over to the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

The Jericho first option presents a unique chance to invest," said businessman Ahmad Seif.

"In another year property and land prices will be out of reach," predicted the 30-year-old, the cost of 1,000 square metres has soared from \$10,000 to \$21,000.

Jericho, a brilliant splash of lush green palm and fruit trees on the edge of the Judean desert, became a virtual ghost town as recession struck in the wake of the intifada, or uprising against Israeli occupation, which erupted in 1987.

Once a popular destination for tourists, most of the restaurants and hotels closed down, despite being the only crossing point into Jordan.

But the "Winter Palace" Hotel is now undergoing renovations as are numerous shops and guesthouses amid hopes that the rich Palestinians who once flocked for the winter sun will soon be back.

Reports that Israel and the PLO are secretly negotiating a deal for the Palestinians to take charge of Jericho and the Gaza Strip, have put a buzz in the air.

About 20 businesses have already obtained loans worth \$2 million to invest in Jericho from the Economic Development Group, a Palestinian fund for small projects in the occupied territories.

Israel 'has chemical weapons arsenal'

ISRAEL HAS been producing non-conventional warheads over long distances. "Israel has stockpiled the most modern missile potential in the Near and Middle East region," says the report. These weapons include the 480 kilometre Jericho 1, which was first deployed about 20 years ago; and the 750 kilometre range Jericho 2, of which over 100 were deployed in the 1977-1981 period.

The disclosure is bound to embarrass Israel, which has been pressing Arab states to abandon their chemical weapons programmes and which in January signed the Chemical Weapons Convention, a treaty barring the production, stockpiling and use of poison gases.

An RFIS report, "The Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction," released earlier this year, flatly declares: "Israel has a store of chemical weapons of its own manufacture."

It explains: "The development of chemical weapons in Israel began in the mid-1960s (and) at the present time Israel is capable of producing toxic substances of all types, including nerve-paralysing, blister-producing and temporarily incapacitating substances."

The RFIS report notes that "large scale research (in the interests of military departments) is unceasing in Israel in the sphere of the synthesis of new physiologically active substances."

Israel is one of 142 states which have signed the Chemical Weapons Convention. Most Arab states have declined to sign, arguing that they should not be expected to limit their military options so long as Israel has atomic weapons and refuses to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Signatories to the Chemical Weapons Convention are grouped into a series of regional caucuses. Israel has been pressing to join the western European grouping. Western diplomatic sources say that there is considerable resistance by group members. In part, this is because Israel is in the Middle East, and not Europe. Also, however, it reflects concern about the sincerity of Israel's renunciation of chemical weapons.

The RFIS report confirms the open secret that Israel has a large nuclear stockpile of "from 100 to 200 weapons". The production facilities were developed mainly with help from France, although some equipment and materials were obtained illicitly in the United States, Britain, France and Germany.

Israel is also developing its own sea-launched cruise missiles, says the report, noting that: "The American Tomahawk sea-launched cruise missiles, which could enable the Israeli navy in the East Mediterranean to approach the level of armament of certain Nato members (Turkey, Greece), have been taken as the model."

The RFIS says that it has "no direct evidence" of an Israeli biological weapons programme. It notes, however, the existence of "a programme of biological research of a general nature in which elements of a military-applied purpose are present... Specifically, Israeli research centres are co-operating closely with top American military laboratories within the framework of the U.S. Defense Department programme for protection against biological weapons" — Council for the Advancement of Arab Understanding, London.

The report adds: "Tel Aviv's interest in the development of thermonuclear weapons cannot be ruled out."

The RFIS also stresses that the Israelis would have no difficulty

Jordanian control.

"I was perhaps the first settler and I will probably be the last," said Mr. David, who lives in Verez Jericho, the nearest Jewish settlement.

"I do not hate Arabs, on the contrary, but if they take control of the town I will be forced to leave because I do not belong in their world."

"Many Palestinians have come to see me about buying me out for a better price than the place is worth. It's a perfect site on the road between Amman and Jerusalem."

Rajai Abdo, manager of Hisbati Palace Hotel, wants to see something concrete happen before getting carried away.

"We expect the recession will end and hope to see better times, but little has changed so far," he moaned.</

Features

Troy treasure hoard sparks international dispute

By Sophie Pons

MOSCOW (AFP) — A treasure hoard believed to have belonged to King Priam of Troy is at the centre of a growing international dispute between governments and museums vying with each other to get their hands on it.

The fabulous collection of gems, unearthed by German archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann when he discovered the site of the ancient city in the last century, has been in dispute since it was stolen by the Russian Red Army in 1945.

It returned to the spotlight at the start of the year when it was rediscovered in the vaults of a Moscow museum, where it had lain unnoticed for decades.

Now Russian authorities have once again thrust its fate into question, this time by announcing that it will be exhibited in Russia before it is shown elsewhere else.

"This unique collection must be returned to the world, but its first exhibition will take place in Russia, then Greece, then Turkey and other countries," said Yevgeny Sidorov.

The statement has caused some consternation internationally. Not least in Athens, where the Greek government had announced that it would host the world premiere of the exhibition.

The Bonn government has also expressed some surprise. Bonn has disputed the ownership of the collection, bequeathed to it in 1880 by Schliemann's family, ever since the Soviets stole it.

Last but not least, Ankara has also laid claim to the rare gems that Schliemann smuggled out of Turkish territory — the site of ancient Troy — into Greece.

The collection — some 9,000 items, including necklaces, diamonds, gold and silver tableware, dishes, shields and other rare military equipment, unearthed by Schliemann in 1873 — has never before been shown in one exhibition."

To further complicate any plans to exhibit the gems, Ms. Antonova told AFP that they could not be shown for at least two years, as a full inventory of each item had first to be drawn up.

Athens apparently has other plans. At the end of September a Greek delegation is due to arrive to seek permission to transport the collection to Athens, where they want to exhibit it in the palace of Troy — a vast neoclassical centre constructed by Schliemann.

"The collection — some 9,000 items, including necklaces, diamonds, gold and silver tableware, dishes, shields and other rare military equipment, unearthed by Schliemann in 1873 — has never before been shown in one exhibition."

They are basing their plans on a promise allegedly made by Russian President Boris Yeltsin during an official visit to the Greek capital in June. That promise is to be honoured seems doubtful.

The age of the collection itself has also come back into question.

"The pieces have been dated to around the year 3,000 B.C., that is about 1,200 years after the era of Priam, Troy and Homer," according to the Russian Culture Ministry cited by the Journal Literaturnaya Gazeta.

In one bid to help settle the matter, an international archaeological expedition which is currently working at Troy has recently offered to help the Pushkin Museum, according to the Gazeta.

In another development, which may shed some light on the matter, Russia is planning an international conference on the life and work of Heinrich Schliemann, dismissed by his contemporaries as an amateur.

FOR THE young men on death row, Friday nights were a time of dread. "If they said you would go outside the next day, your hands would start shaking," said Kiki Francis.

Executions were often carried out on Saturday, and when inmates were led outside they did not know if it was to be for some fresh air or if it was to be their last breath. Those on death row were allowed five minutes of sun each day.

Death row at Nigeria's notorious Kirkiriki Maximum Security prison in Lagos was home to Mr. Francis, 23, for four years after being convicted on charges of armed robbery allegedly committed in 1984 when he was 14 years old. The military decree under which Mr. Francis was convicted barred the right of appeal. In August 1990, the then military governor of Lagos, Colonel Raji Rasaki, announced he intended to execute Mr. Francis and 11 other youths who became known as the "kid robbers". But on the day the execution was to be carried out a human rights group obtained a court order stopping it.

Three months later the Campaign for the Defence of Human Rights (CDHR), led by Boko Ransome-Kuti, obtained a court order suspending the executions. "Boko and the human rights groups got a court order to stop the execution on the day it was to be carried out," said Mr. Francis.

The government maintained that the "kid robbers" could be executed because 11 of the 12 youths were over the age of 17 when they allegedly committed the crime. The Nigerian legal system regards anyone below the age of 17 as a minor and not subject to execution. Human rights groups, such as the CDHR and the Civil Liberties Organisation, argued that the authorities had never permitted a medical examination to determine their true ages.

On Christmas Eve 1990, one of the youths, Mohammad Ibrahim, died on death row of bronchial pulmonary tuberculosis, an illness that runs rampant in Kirkiriki. Another youth initially arrested with the group, Bello Dan Musa, died in 1984 of unknown causes. There were up to six inmates eating, sleeping and relieving themselves in a 4ft by 6ft cell, which was damp and full of mosquitoes.

"No man for man can fit this prison," Mr. Francis said. "It suits you just die."

The evidence against Mr. Francis and the surviving 11 boys was thin. They had been picked up in a police swoop after a wealthy woman in the Ikorodua market area reported a robbery. The assailants allegedly carried a gun and cutlasses. She accused her two houseboys of involvement, and they, in turn, rode around

in one bid to help settle the matter, an international archaeological expedition which is currently working at Troy has recently offered to help the Pushkin Museum, according to the Gazeta.

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Tokyo — where streets have no names

By Seth Sutel
The Associated Press

TOKYO — Many streets in Tokyo have no name. The house numbers aren't in order. Veteran taxi drivers get lost.

These are mean streets for a 30-minute pizza delivery guarantee.

It's takeo tactical reconnaissance and a unique zoning system, but Ernie Higa is delivering the goods — sometimes to customers who order a pizza just to see if the delivery man can find them.

Domino's pizza isn't the first to be baffled by the Tokyo street system — if you can call it that. Some say the chaos is a charming relic of the bustling city's origins as a sprawling collection of villages. Others, like Mr. Higa, say it's a public nuisance.

"There's no rhyme or reason to how the streets were laid out," laments Mr. Higa, president of the company that runs 102 Domino's in Japan under license from the American parent.

"Tokyo is supposed to be one

of the most sophisticated cities in the world, but you have to find your way by gut feeling."

Restaurants and shops in hard-to-reach places rely on maps on the back of their business cards and advertisements to guide customers.

For them, the arrival of the fax machine was a great boon. Now most Tokyoites who live or work in back streets keep "setsuimei chizu" (explanation maps) next to their fax machines, ready to send off to the next potential visitor.

Tokyo's innate confusion results mainly from the haphazard way the city was rebuilt after it was flattened by a colossal earthquake in 1923 and by firebombing during World War II.

Most buildings were thrown up in a hurry, with minimal government guidance, along roads laid out during feudal times. Some historians say the road patterns were made intentionally confusing to thwart direct attacks on the imperial palace at the heart of the city.

But some Japanese claim that a hidden order lurks beneath Tokyo's chaos.

"The sense of order we're trying to build up here is different than in the West," says Kishio Kurokawa, a prominent architect. "We've been trying to find order without order."

But Mr. Higa devised a system

to help his scooter-straddling delivery squads get pizzas to their customers on time.

Each store has enlarged maps of its delivery area pasted on the wall, showing specific addresses and the names of most residents.

Each area is limited to how far a scooter can go in seven minutes during rush hour.

Markers on the maps show where upcoming deliveries have to go, so returning drivers can pick up their next pizza quickly visualise their goal, and head right back out.

People used to order pizzas just to see if we would get it there in time," Mr. Higa said in an interview. "After all, everybody gets lost here."

But some Japanese claim that a hidden order lurks beneath Tokyo's chaos.

"The sense of order we're trying to build up here is different than in the West," says Kishio Kurokawa, a prominent architect. "We've been trying to find order without order."

And buildings are not numbered sequentially, but in the order built. That means house No. 13 could be between No. 1 and No. 4.

Instead, cities are broken into neighbourhood-size districts and divided into numbered sub-districts of several blocks each.

Without a detailed map, however, there's no telling in which direction any district lies.

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EC chief wants world economic body



Jacques Delors

LORIENT, France (R) — European Community (EC) chief Jacques Delors called Sunday for an umbrella international organisation — an economic security council — to be set up to watch over the world economy.

Mr. Delors, president of the EC's executive commission, told a seminar in this French Brittany port existing world organisations had failed to respond to the challenge of modern economic interdependence.

He also said the EC was a "house in danger" and needed new impetus to spur moves to greater European union.

International bodies dealt with their own sector without a global view of monetary, financial, trade, social and environmental problems, while the much vaunted summits of Group of Seven top industrial nations were just "a mountain that gave birth to a mouse."

"This is why I favour setting up an economic security council that, without substituting existing bodies, would regularly take stock of the world economy without neglecting any of its partners," he said.

Mr. Delors said the proposed watchdog should include the United States, Japan, the European Community, China, Russia and the heads of African, Asian, Pacific and Latin American regional organisations.

They would gather with representatives of major economic bodies such as the International Monetary Fund, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and World Bank.

"This council would recommend policies to cut imbalance affecting parts of world economy and respond to challenges crucial for the progress or survival of

humanity," he said.

Mr. Delors was delivering the closing speech at a seminar on "the planet village" organised by Clnh Temoin (witnesses club), a group he founded with French socialist politicians.

Following Europe's recent currency crisis and failure to adopt a decisive joint approach on Yugoslavia, Mr. Delors called the EC "a house in danger."

He blamed setbacks on the lack of economic convergence and political will to forge ahead with European union and compared the EC's common foreign policy with a grand prix car running with a small engine.

"Why try to hide it? If we stick to this course... there will be no single currency," he emphasised.

Behind this short-sightedness probably lies the lack of a strong political will to press ahead with the only collective scheme that will allow Europe to turn its back on decline and loss of world influence," he said.

The danger was so obvious, he said, that heads of state and government should be jolted into action at the forthcoming emergency EC summit, and supporters of political union must be prepared to do battle for a federal Europe.

Mr. Delors said the time of small steps was over, and trying to repair the European Monetary System dented by the widening of currency fluctuation margins would not be enough.

"A new initiative must be taken by those who want to give our... countries the political instrument that will allow them to progress in an union solidly ensured by a political community, a community of peoples and nations," he said.

Hong Kong urges banks to further tighten mortgage lending

HONG KONG (AFP) — The Hong Kong government has said it had urged banks to consider tightening up lending criteria to curb rampant growth in mortgage portfolios.

In a new warning about the risk of a speculative bubble, David Carse, deputy chief executive of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA), urged banking institutions to review and if necessary beef up lending criteria to stop excessive growth in property lending.

The rate of growth has now risen to 30.2 per cent per annum,

compared with 25.3 per cent per annum in the three-month period to June," he warned in a letter to the Banking Industry Association made public by the HKMA.

Mr. Carse also warned that residential mortgage lending in the territory was growing at the fastest rate since the end of 1991 when the government set a ceiling of 70 per cent ceiling on loans in order to curb rampant speculation.

The ceiling, calculated as a percentage of a property's purchase price, aimed at pricking speculation fuelled by banks offering loans of as much as 90 per cent.

Yen's surge sparks heated debate in Japan over investment in Asia

TOKYO (AFP) — The yen's advance to new heights has ignited a heated debate here over the benefits of shifting key manufacturing technologies abroad as Japanese companies begin considering a second wave of investment in Asia.

"Japanese companies will certainly accelerate moving production bases abroad, rather than exporting goods and parts tagged with extremely high prices," said Tamizo Kimura, an analyst at Yamaichi Research Institute Inc.

"But the shift might lead to the deterioration of domestic industry and the hollowing out of the Japanese economy," Mr. Kimura warned, using the buzzword of the mid-1980's which has recently made a comeback with the yen's latest surge.

Kanji Hayashi, from the Asia Bureau of the powerful Federation of Economic Federation Organisations (Keidanren), reckons the incentive to shift production abroad is now greater than seven years ago when the yen's appreciation triggered the initial flood of investment towards Asia.

The strained infrastructure in some countries in Asia, notably in Thailand, has sufficiently im-

proved to welcome higher technology from Japan, he said.

"The recent yen's rise will spur the speed of transferring production bases and technology to Asia," said Mr. Hayashi, whose bureau was established in April to monitor the growing output of Japanese companies in neighbouring countries.

Although it will take time for the impact of the stronger yen to filter down to actual decisions by companies on major new investments, the currency's appreciation to almost 100 yen to the dollar is already being felt in Japan.

Sanyo Electric Co. Ltd. has recently decided to cancel plans to make upmarket compact-disc players and radio-cassette players at a plant operated by an affiliate in southeast Japan, resulting in the loss of 170 jobs.

The products will instead be made in Singapore, Malaysia and possibly China, where Sanyo already has production facilities, company officials said.

Pioneer Electronic Corp. announced earlier this week that it planned to shift more production abroad to cope with the stronger yen, which contributed

to a 39 per cent plunge in consolidated earnings in the three months to June.

Foreign manufacturing for products sold abroad, mainly audio equipment, is targeted to rise from 30 per cent to 50 per cent over the next three years.

A spokesman for Mitsubishi Electric Corp. said: "The trend will continue as long as we try to avoid the negative effects of exchange rates," a spokesman said.

But Japan Federation of Employers' Associations Chairman Takeshi Nagano, who is also chairman of Mitsubishi Materials Corp., the country's biggest processor of non-ferrous metals, expressed his concerns in a recent interview.

"Japan will lose everything if it immediately moves production abroad in response to currency fluctuations," Mr. Nagano told the Mainichi Shimbun. "Once you leave the country, you can't come back any more."

Toshio Watanabe, a professor at the Tokyo Institute of Technology, noted that only 10 per cent of Japanese products were manufactured abroad compared with more than 20 per cent for several other industrial nations.

India buoyed by dramatic export surge

NEW DELHI (AFP) — India's exports have surged dramatically in a sign that industry is looking increasingly outward as it emerges from a domestic recession, taking advantage of a weaker and free-floating rupee.

Among the stated objectives of the overhaul:

— To better support the private sector, using existing resources, by creating a more focused and effective strategy.

— To leverage government resources by strengthening both private-public and city-state partnerships.

— To remove or reduce government barriers to exports.

"There's a desire to be a bit more conscious, to see how much is spent in each area," said the administration official.

For instance, he said, how much is spent promoting low-tech "widgets" versus high-technology products and what returns are reaped on the two governments' investments?

"What kind of jobs is each created? What proportion are we spending on each? Is that too much on the widgets?" said the official, outlining the sort of activist export policy that rattles U.S. trading partners.

According to the senior commerce official: "We want to expand the realm of the possible — to target the appropriate places in which government can help business export more."

Exports of many products, including iron ore and drugs, plunged, partly because of lost markets.

The new banks are expected to finance their lending mainly from their own capital, which is to be raised through domestic bond issues.

Initial capitalisation of the two banks was not announced.

Economics supremo and vice-

prime minister Zhu Rongji, who took charge of the People's Bank of China in July, has vowed to transform it into a Western-style institution guiding monetary policy through control of credit and money supply.

The new banks will enable the central bank to get out of the specialised and commercial banking business.

South Korea worried by low economic growth

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korea's economic recovery is taking longer than expected in spite of President Kim Young-Sam's efforts to stimulate the economy, and some analysts fear the country is in for a period of prolonged stagnation.

The Central Bank of Korea (BOK) said last week that South Korea registered a 3.8 per cent economic growth rate during the first half of the year.

Mr. Kim, on taking office in February, said his priority was to revitalize the country's sagging economy, declaring that South Korea must achieve this year at least six per cent to seven per cent growth.

Samsung Economic Research Institute Director Kim Dong-Sung said after the BOK announcement that South Korea appeared to be falling into prolonged economic stagnation and forecast growth would be four per cent to 4.5 per cent at best.

That would be lower than the disappointing 4.7 per cent growth registered last year under the Roh Tae-Woo government and a far cry from the double digit growth rates of the mid-1980s.

According to Mr. Kim, Mr. Kim's Aug. 12 decree banning the use of aliases in all financial transactions threw cold water on business leaders' plans to make new investment in plant facilities.

Facility investment shrank 5.7 per cent during the first six months of the year, although the government had lowered interest rates and released funds to encourage industrialists to make new investment.

The country's largest circulation Chosun daily said in an editorial that the main reason why investment had not revived was that industrialists were still worried about uncertainty surrounding the Kim administration's economic policies.

cent in July, as manufacturing plants operated at 79.2 per cent of capacity, down from 80.5 per cent in June, belaying government economists' predictions the economy would start bottoming out from June.

Local press reports said the nation's business leaders were not happy with Mr. Kim's enforcement of the so-called "real name" system at this time.

The Federation of Korean Industries, which groups the top leaders of the nation's business conglomerates, or chaebols, supported the move.

But one chaebol chief was quoted as saying: "The real name system should have been put into force when the country's economic recovery is put back on track."

He added that if the government wanted industry to make new investment to boost the economy, it should first bring down high interest rates by carrying out a drastic monetary reform similar to that in rival exporting countries such as Japan and Taiwan.

South Korean business circles have long argued that their export products could become far more competitive on international markets if money rates were lowered.

Korean University economics professor Kim Dong-Kee said a sweeping anti-corruption probe

launched by Mr. Kim, which included the arrests of a number of senior officials in the previous government, had also sapped investment sentiment.

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HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY AUGUST 30, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Get friends to help you put affairs on a more modern basis and try to side step any argument that could occur under the mid-day Moon square Pluto aspect that is effecting your chart.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Think about how you can best put your most interesting capabilities to your advancement and then you will be able to advance towards your aims.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Take a good look at your residence and consider what you can do to make it more habitable, then you can add those conditions to achieve this worthwhile purpose.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Think about those with whom you have been routinely allied for sometime past and let them know you appreciate and want more constructive progress.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Think about your property and possessions and what you can do to improve them and then quickly put into motion some beneficial results.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Decide what your long range plans and ambitions of a personal nature are early, then you can visualise the best means to make them a part of your life.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You now have a chance to organise and plan whatever your activities early on a very intelligent basis while later put more zest into doing them.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) This is the day when you can organise and plan whatever your activities early on a very intelligent basis while later put more zest into doing them.

THE BETTER HALF

By Glasbergen

Glasbergen © 1993 United Feature Syndicate, Inc.



"I dreamed the tea kettle whistled when you walked by, so you sued it for harassment."

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumble words, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DUIHM
THIRM
REFUGI
YELDIE



WHAT THE NEWLYWED MUSIC LOVERS PLEDGED EACH OTHER.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

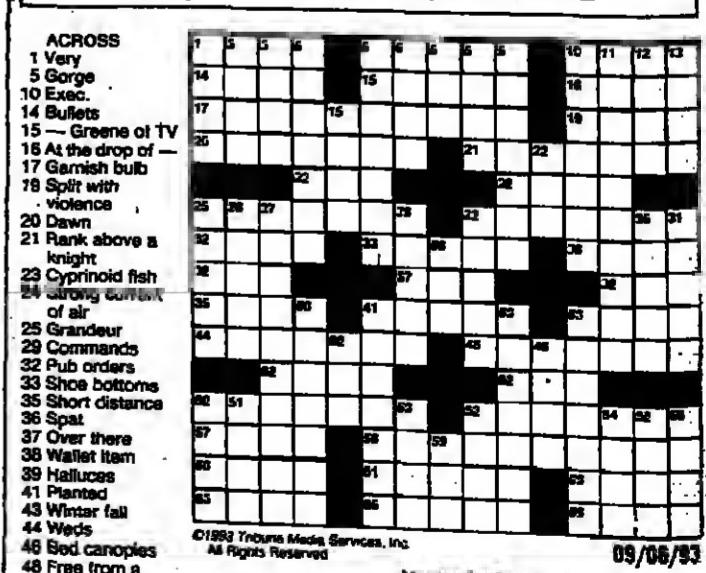
Answer:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: CRIME SCARF HEARSE ANGINA
Answer: How the Englishman described his wife's driving — SMASHING!

THE Daily Crossword

by Harold B. Courts



1	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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Economy

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, AUGUST 30, 1993 7

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET	
HIGHEST LOW TRADE & AMMAN SPOT MARKET ORGANIZED COMMODITY PRICE LIST FOR JORDAN	
COMPANY'S NAME	SPACE VOLUME
ABAD BANK	11.41
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	11.41
CAIRO ARABIAN BANK	11.41
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	11.41
THE HEDJAZ BANK	11.41
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	11.41
ABAD BANK FOR INVESTMENT	11.41
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	11.41
UNION BANK FOR TRADING & INVESTMENT	11.41
BEST GLOBAL INVESTMENT BANK	11.41
ARMED BANK FOR INVESTMENT	11.41
JORDAN FINANCIAL INVESTMENT BANK	11.41
ABAD LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	11.41
JORDAN INSURANCE COMPANY	11.41
ABAD INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	11.41
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITY	11.41
ABAD TRADING & INVESTMENT	11.41
JORDAN GULF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	11.41
HACHAR FERTILIZER & PETROCHEMICAL	11.41
JORDAN PETROLEUM COMPANY	11.41
JORDAN PRESS & PUBLISHING	11.41
UNITED MIDDLE EAST LUMBER COMPANY	11.41
ABAD GROUP OF COMPANIES	11.41
ATTACHEE COST MATERIALS HOLDINGS	11.41
JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	11.41
JOHN DEERE TRACTOR & EQUIPMENT	11.41
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	11.41
THE JORDAN WELFARE HILLS	11.41
ABAD TRADING & MANUFACTURING	11.41
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	11.41
JORDAN PETROLEUM	11.41
THE PUBLIC WORKS AUTHORITY	11.41
ABAD CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	11.41
DAN AL BANK DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	11.41
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	11.41
ABAD ALTAJIBI INDUSTRIES	11.41
INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM	11.41
JORDAN RUBBER INDUSTRIES	11.41
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	11.41
JORDAN PETROLEUM COMPANY	11.41
INDUSTRIAL PLASTICS & POLYMERS	11.41
FACTORY CARDS & MFG. TRADING	11.41
ABAD CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	11.41
ABAD GROUP OF COMPANIES FOR AUTO & FAIRY	11.41
PAINTS & PLASTICS	11.41
UNIVERSAL INDUSTRIES	11.41
GRAND TOTAL	11.41
NO. OF TRADES MADE IN THE ABOVE PERIOD	11.41
TRADED VALUE IN THE TRADES MADE	11.41

Financial Jordan Times
Markets in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

Foreign Exchange Market Summary (August 23-August 27, 1993)

AMMAN — Trading was light and choppy through most of last week's trading sessions, with a general feeling of lack of short term direction. The intensity of the dollar's decline against the Japanese unit also declined as the Bank of Japan finally managed to curb the yen's rise after persistent and aggressive intervention. The U.S. unit, thus ended the week 0.65 per cent lower against the mark, 0.3 per cent lower against the yen and 0.65 per cent higher against sterling.

Absence of U.S. Fed intervention Monday gave market participants a reason to sell dollars, which caused the U.S. unit to retreat against the yen. Analysts indicated that the speech given by the Japanese Prime Minister on the previous week, in which he pledged to cut the mounting Japanese trade surplus with the U.S., lacked reference to any specific measures to be taken. Others indicated that market participants suspected a U.S.-Japan deal, calling for Japan to take concrete measures to reduce its trade surplus with the U.S., which arose following the surprisingly aggressive Fed intervention at the end of the previous week, had faded away after the Japanese Prime Minister's speech. The dollar, thus ended at 103.10 yen, its lowest for the week. On the other hand, sales of marks for yen supported the dollar against the mark, as it ended at 1.6845, its highest for the week.

The dollar moved lower against the mark Tuesday. Its decline appeared to be inspired by speculative and technical factors as many traders preferred to stay on the side lines marking uncertainty over Bundesbank plans for German interest rates in the short term during its regular Council meeting Thursday. Analysts also indicated that lack of positive U.S. economic data, in addition to continued purchases of marks by European central banks to replenish their reserves, would inversely affect the U.S. unit following the release of a weak Japanese Leading Indicators report, which fell to 36.4 per cent in June from 41.7 per cent in May.

The dollar moved higher against the mark and other European currencies Wednesday, in response to increased expectations that the Bundesbank might ease Monetary Policy further during its Council meeting the next day. Reports that showed unexpectedly low inflation in most of the western parts of Germany fed expectations of such an action. Other analysts, however expected a tight stance on Monetary Policy as they indicated that inflation is still high in the eastern parts of Germany and that the widening of the bands within the ERM eased the pressure on the Bundesbank to cut interest rates. In the meantime, another batch of U.S. economic reports released that day, showed mixed results. U.S. July Durable Goods Orders fell by 3.6 per cent after a 4.5 per cent gain in June. On the other hand, existing home sales figures rose by 5.4 per cent in July, to a sales number of 3.88 million units from a revised 3.68 million units, in June. The dollar was also higher against the Japanese unit, as it ended at 105 yen, its highest for the week.

On Thursday, the dollar drifted lower against most European currencies, especially the mark, after the Bundesbank maintained its tight stance on Monetary Policy by leaving official interest rates unchanged. In another development, the Bundesbank raised its short term Repo Rate to 6.90 per cent from 6.80 per cent. Although the move was largely technical, traders took it as a signal that the Bundesbank would not allow German interest rates to ease in the near future.

The dollar moved slightly lower agains the mark Friday, after Swiss National Bank President was quoted as saying that short term Swiss rates would not see further declines. The comments dampened speculation of a subsequent European interest rate cuts in the near future. The dollar also fell against the yen following the release of a report indicating that the Fed might intervene on another sharp drop of the dollar against the Japanese unit. On the other hand, a tiny rise in the Michigan's Consumer Confidence Index to 77.3 per cent in August from 77 per cent in July, failed to affect exchange rates.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin
Date: 29.8.1993

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6910	0.6930
Sterling Pound	1.0371	1.0423
Deutsche Mark	0.4150	0.4171
Swiss Franc	0.4707	0.4731
French Franc	0.1185	0.1191
Japanese Yen	0.6654	0.6657
Dutch Guilder	0.3293	0.3711
Swedish Krona	0.0860	0.0864
Italian Lira	0.0435	0.0435
Belgian Franc	0.01945	0.01955
Per 100		

Taiwan trade gap with Arab Gulf states persists in 1993

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Oil exports by Gulf states to Taiwan have kept the trade balance largely in their favour, official Taiwan figures show.

Taiwan's exports to the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) stood at \$375 million in the first four months of 1993 and imports at \$863 million, creating a surplus of \$488 million in favour of the GCC, according to a report by the Dubai-based Taiwan Trade Centre.

"Taiwan's exports to the Gulf countries have steadily increased over the past few years but the high oil import bill is keeping the trade balance in their favour," the report said.

Oil and gas account for the bulk of Taiwan's imports from GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates

(UAE) — while its exports to them include electric appliances and electronics, garments, watches, furniture and other manufactured products.

Their two-way trade stand at \$3.68 billion in 1992, with the balance registering a surplus of \$1.39 billion in favour of the GCC.

Saudi Arabia, the world's top crude producer and exporter, remained Taiwan's biggest Gulf commercial partner with trade standing at \$681 million in the first four months of 1993 and around \$2 billion in 1992.

The UAE came second, with

exports of \$244 million in the first four months of 1993 and \$761 million in 1992.

Taiwan is the third biggest

Asian trade partner of the GCC.

Iran, the 12-year-old Gulf alliance peaked at \$35 billion in 1992.

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Taiwan is the third biggest

Azeris vote to formalise removal of President Elcibey

BAKU (R) — Azeris voted Sunday in a referendum on fugitive President Ahmet Elcibey, a poll seen by diplomats as a way of formalising his effective removal from power during an armed rebellion in June.

Tourism was brisk at polling station No. 3 in central Baku, where one-fifth of the local electorate had already cast their votes in the first hour.

Blaming Mr. Elcibey for disastrous defeats in an undeclared war against Armenia over the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, a stream of people leaving the booths said they wanted the passionately pro-Turkish nationalist out of their lives.

"I voted against him. Elcibey bears the guilt for everything that has gone wrong. It's he who has let the war drag on for so long and the bloodshed of Azeris continue," said Afed, a well-dressed middle-aged housewife.

"Tell you, 99.9 per cent of people want him to go."

Mr. Elcibey, who fled Baku

last June to escape an armed rebellion and is in hiding in his remote home town, has refused to resign.

A no-confidence vote in Mr. Elcibey in the referendum will pave the way for new presidential elections, which former communist leader Haydar Aliyev said would take place within three months, as stipulated in Azerbaijan's constitution. Mr. Aliyev has stood as acting president since June.

Many Western nations have expressed doubts about a "legally questionable" nationwide vote conducted in a country at war, clogged with refugees and ruled under a state of emergency.

But Mr. Aliyev, the 70-year-old grand old man of Communist-era politics, said he had no choice.

"I have run the country as acting president for more than two months. We can do that on a temporary basis, but we can't go on living like this," he said. "We can't lift the state of emergency now. But given that President

Abulfaz Elcibey has been away for so long, we can't not hold a referendum."

The result of the vote is ex-

pected some time Monday, but no precise time has been given yet.

The few who admit voting for Mr. Elcibey in June 1992 elections, in which the historian and former dissident won 59 per cent of votes, said they felt bitter his government had not kept promises to end the war and improve their lives.

"Last year we all voted for him," said Tariq Kulbanov, a civil engineer who fled the Azeri town of Agdam last month as advancing Armenian forces spread east out of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Aid agencies believe 200,000 people are now on the run from the Armenian advance in a country of seven million.

"We believed in his talk about democracy. But he didn't do anything he promised. He didn't know how to run the country and now it's falling to pieces," Kulbanov said.



Newly elected President of Singapore, Ong Teng Cheong (centre), is greeted by his supporters Sunday soon after he was declared the winner in Singapore presidential elections (AFP photo)

Government man wins Singapore polls

SINGAPORE (AFP) — Singa-

poles have elected government nominee and former Deputy Premier Ong Teng Cheong as their first president with executive powers, but left a large anti-establishment vote intact, analysts said Sunday.

Mr. Ong took 58.7 per cent or 952,513 of valid votes cast, according to official returns announced Sunday, but former government Chief Accountant Chua Kim Yeow surprised with a strong showing.

"Chua is a nice man but he

really had nothing to offer. His

votes must be counted as anti-

PAP (People's Action Party) votes," said lawyer Joshua

Jeyaretnam, a former opposition

member of parliament (MP) bar-

red from running by a govern-

ment commission.

Mr. Chua, 67, who confessed

the government had urged him to

enter the race to provide a con-

test, polled 670,358 or 41.3 per

cent of ballots cast after a low-key

campaign the left Singaporeans

wondered if he really wanted the

job.

He was written off until two

days before polling when, in a

surprise switch of tactics, he

asked voters to back him to en-

sure that the PAP, which has

ruined this prosperous commercial

bank for more than 30 years, did

not amass too much power.

"Do you want the PAP to

dominate the presidency as

well?" he said, in the second of

two television appearances,

alluding to Mr. Ong's position as

party chairman and deputy presi-

dent, posing him to run for the

presidency.

Mr. Ong was also endorsed by

Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong,

Mr. Goh's predecessor Singapore

parliament Lee Kuan Yew and the

PAP itself, although Mr. Goh

said he could work with Mr. Chua

if the retired civil servant won.

Mr. Lee had backed the re-

vanishing presidency in the mid-

1980s, saying it was necessary to

guard against the chance of a

profligate government winning

power and squandering Singa-

pore's huge reserves now totalling

some \$43 billion

China has 800 million TV viewers

PEKING (AFP) — Two-thirds of China's population, or 800 million people, watch television, according to a new survey. The figure was 200 million more than the late 1980s, said the Xinhua News Agency quoted a China Central Television (CCTV) survey as finding. The survey found that one in five Chinese own a television set, up from one in 400 when the country's reform and opening policies were started in 1978, Xinhua said. It said the most-watched television programme was the main evening news. There were 41,000 satellite earth stations, an 800-fold increase from 1985, the survey said. The news media is still tightly controlled by the Communist Party, but programming has been diversified along with the acceleration of market reforms this year. Private satellite dishes have also made it easier for Chinese to get around government censorship.

British royals, at turn of century, used narcotics

ABERDEEN, Scotland (R) —

The British royal family turned to cocaine and heroin for medicinal purposes in around the turn of the century, according to

pharmacy records. British newspapers seized on a report in a Scottish magazine that Queen Victoria and other royals ordered

cocaine and heroin-based remedies when holidaying at their Balmoral estate. Records from 1897 to 1914 from a long-closed

pharmacy near Balmoral showed

royals and others, including a young Winston Churchill, ordered items such as Belladonna and cocaine lozenges to be

sucked occasionally for a variety of maladies. Such drugs were still regularly prescribed in the early part of the century, before being made illegal in 1920.

"Opium was a common addictive drug at the time," said a spokesman for the Royal Pharmaceutical Society. "It could be bought in the grocer's shop and cheaper than alcohol."

Man awarded compensation for failed vasectomy

WELLINGTON (AP) — A tri-

bunal has awarded 8,000 dollars (\$4,000) to a man whose wife became pregnant after his vasectomy failed. The man, whose

name was not made public, had the vasectomy in 1976. After his wife gave birth in 1988, he filed for damages. The New Zealand

Press Association reported that the man told the accident compensation appeal authority he

acted "without asking the advice of the commission's members, we did not feel we had to obey."

In principal, there is nothing to stop the Supreme Court from publishing the results as planned,"

on Aug. 30, Mr. Loudege said.

Early Sunday a senior French diplomat, Michel Lunven, told Mr. Kolingba that Paris condemned the measures and insisted

on an "immediate" restoration of the democratic process, the French Foreign Ministry said here.

Central African President Andre Kolingba issued decrees Saturday altering the electoral code and constitutional court

makeup when first results of the Aug. 22 election put him in fourth place.

Marcel Loudege, vice president of the independent Electoral Commission, said the president's decree had "not taken into

account the spirit of consensus"

in the commission, which is

headed by a member of the

opposition, and that as he had

acted "without asking the advice of the commission's members, we did not feel we had to obey."

"In principal, there is nothing

to stop the Supreme Court from

publishing the results as planned,"

on Aug. 30, Mr. Loudege said.

France was heavily involved in

the logistical preparation of the

election. It used the 1,400 French

soldiers stationed in Central Africa

to distribute urns, voting

booths and voting bulletins, and

used planes and helicopters to

collect the results.

Bar fined \$200 for not charging for water

CHIETI, Italy (AFP) — The owner of an Italian bar has been fined 1,000 dollars (\$400) for serving a glass of tap water with a slice of lemon to a customer without charge. Giacomo De Angelis, the owner of the bar in this Adriatic resort town, said

that financial police told him that he should have issued a sales ticket for 500 lire (30 cents).

Italian bars generally serve glasses of water without charge to people whether they are customers or not.

Colombian drug cartel horse castrated

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) —

Enemies of fugitive drug boss Pablo Escobar who abducted his brother Roberto's million-dollar horse returned it castrated Saturday.

The horse was found tied to a tree in Medellin, the base of Escobar's multimillion-dollar cocaine syndicate, police said. A sign near the animal read: "Terrorists, we return you to the feared Roberto Escobar and brother."

"Terrorists" — "earthquake" in English — was once priced at about \$1 million, but

castration vastly reduced its value. The animal was stolen last month from a ranch belonging to Roberto, who is in jail. Pablo

Escobar has been on the run since last year, when he escaped from a luxurious prison. He had surrendered in June 1991 to authorities in exchange for the possibility of a light jail sentence. Police blamed

the horse abduction and castration on the people persecuted by

Pablo Escobar, an anti-Escobar group that has killed at least 50 of the fugitive drug boss's associates and destroyed several of his properties.

Jackson aide cites \$20 million 'silence' demand

LOS ANGELES (R) — A lawyer demanded \$20 million from Michael Jackson to buy a child's silence on sexual abuse claims, dramatically increasing the accuracy of its attacks on UNITA rebels, according to diplomats

satellite reports. U.S. diplomats said they did not wish to comment.

"The main reason for our success is the reorganisation of the army. We are doing what we are doing without outside help. Stories of U.S. spy satellites could be

part of an attempt by UNITA to explain its setbacks," Mr. Augusto told Reuters.

A Luanda-based diplomat said he believed the Angolan Air Force had used U.S. satellite intelligence to pinpoint and destroy a large UNITA relief convoy between Menongue and Cuito in Bié province, 150 kilometres from Huambo.

Military analysts said government forces were fighting with a new sense of purpose and had achieved several successes during the past few weeks, including hard-hitting air attacks on UNITA's Huambo Headquarters and an air-supported ground thrust towards the city, the rebels' central highlands stronghold.

Prince Ranariddh, Mr. Hun Sen and other senior politicians are due to fly to Prince Sihanouk in Pyongyang Monday, taking with them a draft of a

constitution.

Michael Apogeo, head of the Angolan diplomatic mission to South Africa, said he was out in a position to confirm or deny the

accusations, an aid official said Sunday.

Meanwhile, three people were killed and one was wounded. One of the trucks was partly destroyed," Harare-based Sayagues told Reuters by telephone.

Mr. Sayagues said she did not know who attacked the convoy

which was travelling through an area recently recaptured by government forces from UNITA rebels.

"Several vehicles dropped out of the convoy with punctured tyres. After the repairs they left Catene without permission of the Angolan military to try to catch up," she said. The WFP has been moving thousands of tonnes of food aid in trucks since UNITA attacks on relief aircraft forced it to suspend mercy flights to Angolan inland cities.

paper as saying he is innocent and his family believes him.

Jermaine also criticised their sister Latoya, who was quoted earlier this week as saying she had warned Michael about his friendships with young boys.

"Latoya has gone too far this time," the Mirror quoted Jermaine as saying. "She didn't speak to him about that."

He added: "They don't speak and haven't spoken for

Sports



JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, AUGUST 30, 1993

Miller wins gymnastics title

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — All-around U.S. champion Shannon Miller added event titles in the uneven bars and floor exercise Saturday night in the final session of the National Gymnastics Championships.

Yet the 16-year-old world champion and Olympic silver medalist said she still wasn't satisfied.

"I came today to try to do the best I could in every event," Miller said. "I did pretty good, but I still need to work on a new vault."

Miller, who easily won the all-around title over Dominique Dawes, lost the vaulting crown to her Saturday night. Dawes also captured the balance beam.

"Coming in second gave me a lot of motivation for today," Dawes said. "Shannon and I get along pretty well. (But) if one of us gets ahead, then the other one just has to work harder."

Earlier Saturday, John Roethlisberger added a national still rings championship to his third all-around gold.

Miller won the bars with a near-perfect 9.837 routine capped by a ramrod-straight landing. Her floor exercise, highlighted by a half dozen flips culminating in a backward somersault, earned a 9.722 score.

Dawes, who stepped out of bounds, finished just 12-hundredths of a point behind. Kerri Strug, 15, claimed second with a 9.8 on the bars, and was

third in floor exercise.

Dawes, 16, scored 9.581 in the vault to edge Miller by 19-hundredths of a point. She had an easier time on the beam, earning a 9.687 for a routine featuring four forward flips and a spinning dismount.

Kellee Davis, 15, was second with 9.437 and Miller settled for third after slipping at the beginning of her routine.

In winning the rings gold, Roethlisberger executed two double twists and two reverse somersaults into a perfect landing and a 9.612 score, edging runnerup Chainey Umphrey by 12-hundredths of a point.

Roethlisberger did it with a sore ankle, injured during Thursday's optional competition.

Chris Waller, 24, won his third consecutive national pommel horse championship, using a strong handspring and flawless landing to earn a 9.725 score.

Roethlisberger's strong performances on the horse and rings on Thursday helped him win the all-around crown. Umphrey finished second all-around and Scott Keswick, winless in the apparatus round Saturday, was third.

The Coca-Cola-sponsored meet selects 14 men and 20 women for the national squad, which will represent the United States in domestic and international competition.



Juha Kankkunen of Finland gets airborne during the 1000 Lakes Rally in central Finland (AFP photo)

Kankkunen captures 1000 Rally

JYVASKYLA, Finland (AP) — Juha Kankkunen (Toyota) won his second 1000 Lakes Rally in his own neck of the woods Sunday.

Kankkunen, who virtually led from start to finish, edged out his Finnish compatriot Ari Vatanen (Subaru) by .47 seconds and France's Didier Auriol (Toyota) by 2mio 10sec.

The 34-year-old triple world champion kept ahead of his two rivals by intelligent tactics, and only Vatanen, who nosed past of him by three seconds on Saturday, was ever ahead of him during the race.

But the 34-year-old from Laukaa, a village a few kilometres from Jyvaskyla, soon showed who was boss by imme-

diately regaining the lead. Kankkunen also consolidated his lead in the World Drivers' Championship which he heads with 91 points. Auriol is second on 71 points with Frenchman Francois Delecour, absent from this race, third on 70.

But in the constructors race, Toyota heads the list with 131 points, ahead of Ford (111 pts) and Lancia (67 pts).

Yet with four rounds of the World Championship left to run, in Australia, San Remo, Spain and Great Britain, the race for the 1993 championship is far from over.

Vatanen, in his Subaru Impreza again showed his immense

talent as he relentlessly snapped on the heels of Kankkunen. But during Sunday morning, he had to concede defeat.

Home supporters were disappointed to see Markku Alen career off the road Friday morning during the first special stage.

And last year's winner Auriol had a chance till Saturday night when a bad landing after a jump left his car badly damaged, putting an end to his title hopes.

Though Finland's Tommi Kankinen held on for fourth spot in his Lancia, he, like the Mitsubishi Lancers of Sweden's Kenneth Eriksson and Armin Schwarz of Germany, were never in the hunt for the premier prize.

Ullrich, Van Moorsel victorious

OSLO (AP) — German teenager Jan Ullrich took the lead with about 200 metres left and held on to win the men's amateur road race in the World Cycling Championships Saturday.

Ullrich finished the 184-kilometre (114-mile) race in four hours, 13 minutes and nine seconds for an average speed of 43.610 kph (27.1 mph).

Kaspars Ozerts of Latvia, who led briefly coming into the final stretch in downtown Oslo, was second and Lubok Tesar of Czech Republic third, both clocking the same time as the winner.

Leontine Van Moorsel of Holland edged Jeannie Longo-Ciprelli-Longo of France in another sprint finish to win the women's 92-kilometre (57-mile) road race.

Van Moorsel, 23, the 1991 world champion, covered the race to 2:21:20. Longo was right behind in a razor-thin finish, failing to win the women's title for an unprecedented fifth time.

Laura Charameda of the United States nipped Michaela Fanini of Italy for the bronze medal. Both finished four seconds behind.

It was the first time the 29-year-old Charameda made the medal podium in a championship.

Van Moorsel, who broke through in 1990 when she captured the 3,000-metre pursuit world championship title, said after the race that the course was good for her and that "I now have a little more power in my legs."



Holland's Leontine Van Moorsel jubilates as she crosses the finish line before Jeannie Longo-Ciprelli of France to win the women's World Road Race Championships in Oslo (AFP photo)

TODAY

Cinema Tel.: 677420

CONCORD

Last Action Hero

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:15

America Shikabika

Arabic

Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:00, 8:15, 10:15

Cinema Tel.: 699238

PLAZA

Adel Imam in

Wad Sayyed Al Shaghaf

play (Arabic)

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30

Cinema Tel.: 634144

PHILADELPHIA

Franky and Johnny

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

On Thursday and Friday special show for children at 11 a.m. a festival of cartoons

Sabatini drops out against Sanchez Vicario

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Gabriela Sabatini complaining of nausea, retired after five games of the second set giving Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain a 6-3, 4-1 triumph on the final day of the \$200,000 Elizabeth Arden WTA Challenge Saturday night.

The victory assured a team of three Europeans and one South African of the overall championship and the \$125,000 first prize in the unique four-day event.

Four players from North and south America will split \$75,000.

In the second set on the evening which had no bearing on the outcome of the team competition, Mary Joe Fernandez won 4-6, 6-1, 5-3 when Len Novak of the Czech Republic called it quits because of a sore right shoulder.

Many in the crowd of 5,225 booed as the players left the court.

Ironically, Fernandez had pulled out of a doubles match on Friday with severe abdominal pains.

"The shoulder has been bothering me ever since Wimbledon," Novak said. "I played as long as I could with it, but won the U.S. Open coming up."

Seles has spent the past few months recuperating at a clinic in Vail, Colorado. Graf has dominated the women's tennis scene, replacing Seles as the world's top-ranked player. Seles said she was disappointed Graf had not called to speak with her.

"I just felt she could call me once or twice to see how I was doing," Seles said.

Seles has a new tennis racket waiting for her return, although she has been reluctant to grip it.

"I look at the racket and I go 'oooh,'" she said. "I tried to handle the racket. Whoa I picked it up, it felt very weird. Did I ever play this sport?"

"I try not to look at the racket. It is in the corner. I will open it when I am 100 per cent."

Seles has no timetable for returning to the court.

"My answer to myself is I always practice very hard," she said. "If I am going to come back, I will have that. It is going to take a lot of months. I told myself to be patient."

When Seles does return, she plans to put her celebrity status to good use.

"When I go back, hopefully I will be able to do something with my game I would not have otherwise," she said. "I just have to look at the positive. It is too sad when I look at the negative."

Seles tries not to recall the moment she was attacked.

"I touched my back and felt blood," Seles said. "My brother came in and told me to stay calm. I was lucky my brother was there. He was able to keep me concentrating on one thing."

She feels fortunate a comeback is possible.

"He missed by about this much from taking me out forever," Seles said, holding her fingers close together. "I'm lucky I can swing a racket."

Seles struggles to return

NEW YORK (AFP) — Monica Seles, recovering from stab wounds received at a tournament four months ago, feels strange about the U.S. Open starting Monday without her.

"Life feels weird," Seles told CNN in an interview broadcast Saturday. "I would be at tournaments now. It's August and I am not where I want to be. I don't know why I am here."

Seles was stabbed in the back at a tournament in Hamburg, Germany, last April by a man who said he wanted her opponent, Steffi Graf, to hold the world's number one ranking.

Seles has spent the past few months recuperating at a clinic in Vail, Colorado. Graf has dominated the women's tennis scene, replacing Seles as the world's top-ranked player. Seles said she was disappointed Graf had not called to speak with her.

"I just felt she could call me once or twice to see how I was doing," Seles said.

Seles has a new tennis racket waiting for her return, although she has been reluctant to grip it.

"I look at the racket and I go 'oooh,'" she said. "I tried to handle the racket. Whoa I picked it up, it felt very weird. Did I ever play this sport?"

"I try not to look at the racket. It is in the corner. I will open it when I am 100 per cent."

Seles has no timetable for returning to the court.

"My answer to myself is I always practice very hard," she said. "If I am going to come back, I will have that. It is going to take a lot of months. I told myself to be patient."

When Seles does return, she plans to put her celebrity status to good use.

"When I go back, hopefully I will be able to do something with my game I would not have otherwise," she said. "I just have to look at the positive. It is too sad when I look at the negative."

Seles tries not to recall the moment she was attacked.

"I touched my back and felt blood," Seles said. "My brother came in and told me to stay calm. I was lucky my brother was there. He was able to keep me concentrating on one thing."

She feels fortunate a comeback is possible.

"He missed by about this much from taking me out forever," Seles said, holding her fingers close together. "I'm lucky I can swing a racket."

Angry hooligans, incensed by this, mounted a full-scale battle with police that ended with tear-gas being fired into the crowd and the players being led off the field.

French League President Noel Le Graet announced Sunday:

"What I saw on television was shameful. This hooliganism problem has gone beyond the limits of football."

And France's Interior Minister Charles Pascual urged a "new approach" to security in football stadiums.

Violence of a different kind was seen a day earlier on Friday evening, when Marseille, currently being investigated for alleged match-fixing and bribery, played Monaco. German international Rudi Voeller was punched to the floor behind the referee's

mand and stayed in front despite the late surge by Schumacher.

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Sabatini complained of dizziness and nausea, but it wasn't clear whether her illness was caused by the heat. The temperature was approaching 90 with humidity over 75 per cent. The spokeswoman said Sabatini still expects to play in the U.S. Open next week.

Chang tops Edberg, Rosset beats Ivanisevic

Chang, who was beaten by Edberg in an epic five-hour semi-final match in last year's Open, has won 5 of his last 12 matches, all on hardcourt.

Edberg's 6-1, 6-2 victory was his second in a row over Edberg, the defending champion in next week's U.S. Open.

Rosset's victory over Ivanisevic was his second in nine meetings, the first coming on clay in last year's Olympia.

Unknowns reach OTB</

Bosnia partition plan hits snags

SARAJEVO (AFP) — A proposed plan to carve up Bosnia into three ethnically-based mini-states appeared doomed Sunday as the Bosnian and Croat leaderships demanded modifications and the Serbs threatened to withdraw already offered concessions.

The plan, brokered by European Community (EC) mediator Lord Owen and his U.N. counterpart Thorvald Stoltenberg, was to be discussed Monday by Bosnia's three warring parties at a new round of negotiations in Geneva.

Over the weekend, representatives from each side met separately to vote on the plan with the Serbs approving it, the Croats attaching conditions to its acceptance and the Muslims pressing for major changes.

Bosnian Parliament Speaker Miro Lazovic told a press conference Sunday that the Geneva plan could not be approved in its present form "but could serve as a basis for the continuation of the talks."

He said the Bosnian delegation to the peace talks would ask that substantial changes be made to the plan. He did not provide specifics on the changes.

Meanwhile the country's collegial presidency, comprising Serbs, Croats and Muslims, was holding its own meeting on the issue Sunday.

Two of its members, Miro Lasic, a Croat, and Mirko Perjanovic, a Serb, said earlier that the presidency, "acting as a parliament," would meet to take "the final decision."

Last Saturday, Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic warned Bosnian lawmakers against a conditional acceptance of the Geneva plan, threatening to withdraw already offered concessions if they do so.

"Imposing conditions on the Geneva plan is equivalent to rejecting it," he told a press conference after his parliament accepted the plan by 55 votes in favour, 14 against with three abstentions.

"It was agreed in Geneva that the concessions we made at the last minute provided a solution. If they are not considered as a solution we withdraw them," he added, saying the plan was "a last chance" for the Muslims.

Extremists seek to terrorise military justice — judge

CAIRO (AP) — A military judge said Sunday eight Muslim extremists attacked the car of an army general in July in an attempt to terrorise the military judicial system which has sentenced 22 militants to death.

Major General Abdul Moneim Nafea was reading out the indictment against eight defendants, four of whom are at large. It was the first official confirmation that a military car, which escaped unharmed, was the main aim of the July 18 attack. Two gunmen and two bystanders were killed in the shooting.

"The aim was stopping one of the institutions of the state from carrying out its duties," Gen. Nafea said. The defendants are also accused of joining an illegal group aimed at overthrowing the government, killing two men and attempting to kill eight others including the three occupants of the military car.

The car was carrying Maj. Gen. Osman Shaheen, commander of Cairo's central military area. But police sources at the time said the attackers thought it belonged to Maj. Geo. Ahmad Abdullah, head of the military courts, who usually takes the same route.

President Hosni Mubarak started referring the extremists to military courts last year to ensure the speedy trials of the radicals who have been waging a bloody campaign to turn Egypt into a Muslim theocracy.

Twenty-two extremists have been sentenced to death by the military courts. Fourteen have been executed and the rest are at large.

Al Gamma Al Islamiyah, one of the main extremist groups in Egypt, claimed responsibility for the attack on the military car, saying it was to avenge the hanging of five radicals the day before.

The four defendants on trial in the Red Mountain military barracks courthouse north of Cairo denied the charge during Sunday's three-hour session and the court was recessed until Sept. 7.

The foreign press have been banned from attending this trial. Journalists working for Egyptian newspapers are allowed to attend.

Other military trials have been opened to the press.

In a related development, military sources said that a second batch of 65 defendants belonging to the Vanguards of Conquest extremist group go on trial next Saturday. More than 700 members of the group are involved in

He was speaking after the Bosnian deputies, meeting in Sarajevo, voted to carry on with the Geneva talks and to demand substantial changes in the proposed plan.

The Bosnian leadership has repeatedly pressed for changes to the maps outlining the boundaries of the three proposed mini-states that are to be carved out of the former Yugoslav republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The self-styled Bosnian Croat parliament also gave conditional acceptance to the plan after meeting on the issue Saturday.

Approving a motion by Bosnian-Croat leader Mate Boban, the assembly said it was "ready to accept" the plan, provided that the republic's two other warring parties — the Muslim-led Bosnian government and the Bosnian Serbs — also approved the draft.

However, the resolution demanded that parts of central Bosnia be ceded by the Bosnian government, and that the Croats be given a swathe of territory to link two proposed Croat areas in the northeastern Bosanska Posavina region.

The current proposed plan would give the Serbs, who accounted for 33 per cent of the pre-war population according to the 1991 census and who now control 70 per cent of Bosnia, 52 per cent of the territory.

The Muslims, who made up 48 per cent of the pre-war population would get 30 per cent of the territory, the Croats who accounted for 19 per cent of the pre-war population would retain 17 per cent of the country.

Rebel Serbs of Mount Ozran in northern Bosnia plan to snuff the Geneva peace plan agreed by their leadership and create their own autonomous enclave, a local official told AFP Sunday.

Under the proposed plan dividing Bosnia-Herzegovina, the region would come under Muslim jurisdiction.

"If we cannot be part of the Serb republic (self-proclaimed on 70 per cent of Bosnian territory), we will create an autonomous enclave. We will not be controlled by Muslims and are ready to fight," said Thionir Gligoric, president of the Ozran regional council.



NOMINATION: Leader of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Benazir Bhutto (right) chats with a civil judge of district session court in Lahore. Mrs. Bhutto has submitted her nomination papers before a civil judge for the forthcoming election of the national assembly (AFP photo)

Rebels launch counter-assault against Khartoum's forces

KERWA, Sudan (AFP) — The rebel Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) has launched a counter-offensive against Sudanese government forces and has halted their southern advance, rebel sources announced here Sunday.

The SPLA claim that an advance by government forces towards rebel positions in the now-deserted town of Kaya had been halted has been confirmed by relief agencies helping refugees fleeing the fighting.

"We have not heard of any fighting in the past 10 or so days," Jasmin Krischer, a doctor in the Dutch branch of Médecins sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders) said.

Refugees fleeing the fighting also said that for one week now, the Sudanese air force's high-flying Antonov bomber planes had stopped aerial raids on rebel positions near the Sudan-Uganda border.

About 60,000 refugees have crossed into northern Uganda's district of Koboko, while 47,000 more are displaced inside Sudan around the border.

Unconfirmed reports said that the population was herded into this remote village which lies about 160 kilometres from the regional capital Juba by a contingent of SPLA fighters that instructed the population not to seek refuge in Uganda.

Rebel sources told AFP that John Garang's faction of the SPLA had resisted the capture of Kaya with a heavy deployment of troops there, and an official of one of the aid agencies said rebel forces were now advancing towards Morobo, a village 55 kilometres north of Kaya captured by government forces three weeks ago.

The 47,000 displaced inside Sudan have sought refuge in Uganda, despite pathetic condi-

tions they live in. Virtually the whole population lives under trees in the plush tropical vegetation.

Hundreds of men would be seen constructing huts, which are badly needed at this time when rains fall almost everyday.

"Only God knows how we manage to keep alive. It rains on us every day," 60-year-old Kosiya Obitor, whose 12-year-old daughter lay under a tree suffering from malaria, told AFP.

Asked why he did not wish to stay here, "We have been told to stay here," refusing to answer any more questions.

An official of the John Garang's SPLA humanitarian wing, Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Agency (SRRA), Phillip Choi, denied that the population was being kept against its will by the SPLA.

"You can see there are no SPLA fighters holding anyone hostage here," he told AFP in reaction to earlier reports that heavily armed SPLA forces were holding hostage thousands of displaced people by using them as a human shield against bombardment of Sudanese government forces.

But relief agencies and U.N. officials said they believed the SPLA leadership had refused to allow the population to cross into Uganda.

"Take it from me that the population has been directly or indirectly refused to cross into Uganda by the SPLA," an official told AFP.

The SRRA official maintained that the population had lived together in three camps east of the Nile and considered themselves as one family.

"We consider ourselves as one family. To move or not to move can only be a collective decision," he said, explaining that the ex-

perience they had in Ethiopia had taught them out to be keen about seeking refuge outside Sudan.

Thousands of Sudanese refugees faced hostility when Mengistu Haile Mariam's regime collapsed in neighbouring Ethiopia.

Relief officials pointed out, however, that Dinka people could be reluctant to join other tribes, notably the Kokus, now in refugee camps to Kohoko, 54 kilometres northeast of the regional capital Arua, because of ethnic animosity between the two tribes.

Some refugees in Koboko told AFP that the Colonel Garang's Dinkas had looted their property in Kaya and had also raped their women, a claim since confirmed by relief officials who have said that SPLA's Dinka-dominated troops had committed atrocities in areas around Kaya.

The U.N. High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and relief agencies are worried that thousands of the displaced people in Kerwa could die from disease because of the overcrowding and shortage of food and medical services.

"We cannot assist you unless you cross into Uganda and declare yourselves refugees," frustrated UNHCR Representative in Uganda Ahmad Farabi told a crowd of the displaced population that had gathered at Kerwa school, where classes are normaly conducted under mango trees.

Earlier reports that the 47,000 people were inside Uganda's territory have been dismissed by Uganda's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Kirunda Kivejinja.

In a statement released this weekend, Mr. Kivejinja said that displaced population was in Sudanese territory and also denied that Sudanese fighter planes had bombed Ugandan territory.

IAF to contest polls in 'full force'

(Continued from page 1) also argued the changes were limited and would eventually harm "national unity."

Dr. Farhan said the IAF would carry the "legal battle" for electoral reforms to the 12th Parliament through its elected deputies who would lobby for dividing Jordan into a number of constituencies equal to the number of seats in the Lower House, lowering the voting age from 19 to 18 and "giving political parties a larger role in the electoral process."

Jordan is currently divided into 20 voting districts drawn to accordance with administrative local government divisions. Seats ranging from two to nine are assigned for each governorate or district.

He told reporters after a meeting with President Hosni Mubarak that "Egypt has promised to increase its quota, set at \$10 million."

The foreign ministers of the 21-member Arab League decided in Damascus on July 31 to provide \$500 million in emergency aid to rebuild thousands of buildings destroyed or damaged in the weekend Israeli bombardment of South Lebanon at the end of July, and to equip the army which has deployed in the south.

Mr. Hariri arrived Sunday in Egypt on the first leg of a new tour which includes stops in Tunisia and Algeria in search of Arab financial help.

He is being accompanied by Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid who had also joined him on a visit this month to Syria, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman.

On Aug. 22, officials travelling with Mr. Hariri said six Gulf Arab states would give Lebanon \$400 million, a sum accounting for all but \$100 million that the Arab League promised last month.

The officials had said the remaining \$100 million in aid would be provided by other Arab countries, including Egypt and Syria, with each disbursing \$10 million.

Arab resolutions to provide aid are notoriously hard to turn into cash.

against the grave dangers that a decision to boycott the elections would pose for the higher interest of the states and the future of Islamic political work in Jordan and the Muslim and Arab World."

The IAF leaders stressed they will continue to seek the establishment of an Islamic state through gradual reform and non-violent means.

"We seek power in order to establish reform. We seek majority in Parliament and we do that through constitutional means so that we initiate the process of reform," said Dr. Akaileh.

Dr. Farhan urged the government to "rise to the level that King Hussein wants it to reach" and warned that the IAF will watch it for any practices "that might favour one party over the other."

Dr. Farhan, also a former minister of education, said the front would "soon" announce the names of its candidates for the coming Parliament and that it would "take the necessary action" against any members who choose to run for the elections independently.

Touching on other regional issues, Dr. Farhan blamed the violence in Egypt and Algeria on the failure of the regimes in Cairo and Algiers to communicate with their peoples. He said dialogue provides the best means for ending the violence in these countries.

Dr. Farhan reiterated his party's call for lifting the sanctions against Iraq, saying Baghdad would "win the battle the West is launching against it by resorting to Islam, national reconciliation and the initiation of sharia and democratic reforms."

"The solution lies inside Iraq," he said.

Dr. Farhan also called for terminating its peace process with Israel and expressed opposition to proposals for confederation between Jordan and a Palestinian entity as well as the Gaza-Jericho option.

The council, in a statement issued after its meeting Thursday night, said it took the decision because "the positive results of contesting the elections outweigh the negative ones and to guard

Iraqi team heads for U.N. talks after delay

AMMAN (Agencies) — An Iraqi delegation left Sunday for talks at the U.N. headquarters in New York after the U.S. government offered to give them security escorts, an Iraqi embassy spokesman said.

The Iraqis balked at the trip on Saturday when the Iraqi government charged that the Americans had "abandoned their responsibilities to provide protection."

The delegation, which is to discuss Iraqi weapons control and U.N. sanctions imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, is led by General Amir Rashid, head of Iraq's Military Industrialisation Authority.

At midday Sunday, Geo. Rashid's team boarded a Royal Jordanian airlines flight bound for New York, Iraqi embassy spokesman Adel Ibrahim said.

"The problems that delayed the team's departure yesterday (Saturday) have now been removed," Mr. Ibrahim said.

He said U.S. authorities "agreed to provide the team with security escorts as is customary for all official delegates visiting the U.S."

There was no immediate U.S. confirmation of Mr. Ibrahim's account.

The official Iraqi News Agency (INA) said U.N. Secretary

General Boutros Ghali intervened for the United States to ensure the delegation's security before it left for New York.

The New York talks set to begin Tuesday will focus on implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 715 calling for long-term monitoring of Iraq's weapons programmes.

The talks follow a crisis in July over arms monitoring that was defused when Baghdad agreed to the installation of surveillance cameras at two missile test sites, which have stayed off pending the New York meeting.

The talks with the United Nations are part of an accord struck last month during a visit to Baghdad by Rolf Ekens, head of the U.N. commission on Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

Iraq is seeking a comprehensive understanding with the U.N. Security Council on demolishing its weapons of mass destruction in return for the lifting of sweeping trade sanctions imposed after it invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

In a statement issued by its Vienna embassy, Iraq said it wanted to discuss technical issues linked to completing the removal of those weapons at the New York talks.

PLO, Israel on verge of deal

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Arafat said that the struggle for Palestinian rights was on the verge of a "major historical turning point."

Speaking to journalists after a meeting with Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali, the PLO chairman described as "positive" and "satisfying" the three-day meeting between PLO leaders and the Executive Committee.

Mr. Arafat said he had briefed

Mr. Ben Ali on the peace negotiations and international contracts, and on the PLO's position on a proposed declaration of principle linked to the Gaza-Jericho option.

Mr. Ben Ali had also been informed of the PLO's current financial crisis and "the suffocating impact of the crisis and the financial blockade imposed on the Palestinian people and its leadership," Mr. Arafat added.

Palestinian groups opposed to peace talks called for a general strike to coincide with what they labelled a "surrender session" of the talks due to start on Tuesday.

The ten organisations, including two of the three main factions of the PLO and Hamas, called for the strike to take place in the occupied territories Tuesday to protest the "betrayal" of the Palestinian people by Mr. Arafat.

According to accounts from various officials, the autonomy plan would mean that:

— In Gaza and Jericho, the Israeli army would withdraw from population centres to security locations.

— Palestinians would be given full control over their internal affairs.

— Israel would maintain control over entry points to the autonomous areas, including the bridge linking Jordan with the West Bank.

— Israel would also remain in charge of Jewish settlements.

— Negotiations on problematic issues, such as the status of Jerusalem, would be postponed until the final status of the occupied lands are to begin — within two to three years.

No changes on the ground are expected for months.